



SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

Docket No. 0317MH-23513

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN that I, DANIEL A. HENDERSON, have invented new and useful improvements in a

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVED PAGING RECEIVER AND SYSTEM

of which the following is a specification:

1 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

2
3 1. Field of the Invention:

4
5 This invention relates in general to communications systems and in particular to
6 communications systems which include paging devices.

7
8 2. Description of the Prior Art:

9
10 Numerous companies are attempting to improve the manner in which people
11 communication over wireless systems. The present invention addresses many
12 deficiencies in the prior art systems.

13

1 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

2

3 This Application claims the benefit of the filing date under 35 USC §§119 and/or
4 120, and 37 CFR §§1.60 and 1.78 to the following U.S. and U.S. provisional patent
5 applications, and is a continuation-in-part of the U.S. patent application:

6 1. U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/005,029, filed on
7 October 6, 1995, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Improved Paging Receiver and
8 System"; and

9 2. U.S. patent application serial no. 08/177,851, filed on January 5, 1994,
10 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Enhancing the Efficient Communication of
11 Information in an Alphanumeric Paging Network".

12

1 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

2
3 The present application is directed to the following inventive concepts:

4
5 1. Voice Paging System and Device which utilizes CIP from an originating
6 central office as textual identifying data and generates prestored audio alert prior to
7 annunciation of a corresponding voice message from calling party. See Figure 4a.
8 CID could be fax header as in Figures 6a and 6b.

9
10 2. Alternate embodiment of the above where the entry of PIN is required to
11 play back messages from a selected group of callers or for messages of confidential
12 nature. See Figure 4b.

13
14 3. Alternate embodiment of the above where DTMF audio signals and
15 voice message is received. The device has a DTMF tone decoder generates
16 corresponding textual data record and decoded digits for display. A text to speech
17 synthesis can be achieved prior to annunciation of message. In another embodiment,
18 the received DTMF signals could be used to generate call back dial signals. See
19 Figure 4c.

20
21 4. Alternate embodiment of the above where the CID data could be applied
22 to text to speech unit to annunciate CID data prior to the received voice message.
23 See Figure 4d.

24
25 5. Alternate embodiment where device has three modes of operation,
26 namely, announce, silent and broadcast mode.

27
28 6. Alternate embodiment where device has sound input means to ack-back
29 to caller See Figure 7b. The sound input means is used to prestore voice response
30 messages for ack-back which is an improvement over prior art. See Figure 7a.

31

1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

2
3 The novel features believed characteristic of the invention are set forth in the
4 appended claims. The invention itself, however, as well as a preferred mode of use,
5 further objectives and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the
6 following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment when read in conjunction
7 with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

8
9 **Figure 1a** shows the prior art stored voice paging receiver.

10
11 **Figure 1b** shows an improved stored voice paging receiver with a
12 test-to-speech means and a display input/output means to annunciate and/or display
13 caller identification data associated with a particular voice message received.

14
15 **Figure 1c** shows an improved stored voice paging receiver with a sound input
16 means, a coincidence detector, a display output means, a detachable input means,
17 and a DTMF tone decoder means.

18
19 **Figure 1d** shows an improved non-display autodialing type paging receiver with
20 text to speech generator and DTMF tone decoder.

21
22 **Figure 2a** shows a block diagram of a paging system described herein that has
23 a messaging center at the called party office.

24
25 **Figure 2b** shows a block diagram of a paging system described herein that has
26 a messaging center such as a voice mail center at the telephone office.

27
28 **Figure 3a** shows the prior art method of transmitting a voice message to a
29 stored voice paging receiver.

30
31 **Figure 3b** shows an improved method of transmitting a voice message to a

1 stored voice paging receiver along with caller identifying data according to one
2 embodiment of the invention.

3

4 **Figure 4a** is a flowchart of one embodiment of the invention in which caller id
5 data is applied to a coincidence detector and display within a stored voice paging
6 receiver to generate a prestored audio alert signal.

7

8 **Figure 4b** is a flowchart of one embodiment of the invention in which caller id
9 and additional data entered by the caller using DTMF entry is sent with a voice
10 message to a stored voice paging receiver with a text to speech alerting means and/or
11 display means.

12

13 **Figure 4c** is a flowchart of one embodiment of the invention in which canned
14 display alerts can be generated and improved dial signal generation can be employed
15 in an improved stored voice pager.

16

17 **Figure 4d** is a flowchart of another embodiment of the invention.

18

19 **Figure 4e** is a flowchart of one embodiment of the invention in which a stored
20 voice paging receiver can have various modes for operation.

21

22 **Figure 5a** shows a sample data record that can be prestored and contained
23 within a personal communication device.

24

25 **Figure 5b** shows a sample display of message notifications received at a
26 personal communication device.

27

28 **Figure 5c** shows a memory address register within a personal communicator
29 device which stores caller id and voice message data received.

30

31 **Figures 6a and 6b** are block diagrams of receiving fax header information and

1 transmitting as caller identifying information.

2 Figures 7a and 7b show improved ACK-BACK stored voice device.

3

4

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1 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

2
3 One particular problem with conventional paging systems using message
4 center devices is the requirement that a caller must manually enter their call back
5 telephone number. One such example of a manual entry system is disclosed fully in
6 US 4,172,969 issued to Levine et al, US 4,072,824 issued to Phillips, and also US
7 4,103,107 issued to D'Amico et al. This can be cumbersome particularly if the calling
8 party wishes to also leave a voice message or send some other message data such
9 as a facsimile. In addition it is especially difficult for a calling party to enter an
10 alphanumeric message during manual entry as a great majority of communications
11 over the PSTN originate from devices with standard numeric keypads that generate
12 DTMF signals. One invention which attempts to address the problem of alphanumeric
13 entry by a telephone set is US 4,918,721 issued to Hashimoto. However such an
14 approach is still cumbersome to use and is time consuming for the calling party. As
15 well, the longer it takes for a calling party to enter caller identifying information, the less
16 time a message center at the called party location is available to accept other calls.
17 This invention attempts to resolve these and other problems.

18
19 In addition, in stored voice paging receivers there is no ability to sort through or
20 organize voice messages except to listen to them sequentially. This can be
21 inconvenient for the called communicant as they may want to skip certain messages
22 until later, but must listen to at least part of all of each message as the voice data
23 cannot be displayed. This invention attempts to address this problem as well. The
24 automatic transmission of caller id or ANI data from the PSTN to a message center,
25 for storage and retransmission along with optional other data to a paging center to be
26 received in a personal communicator is also addressed in this invention. Other
27 advantages and objects will be realized by the description which follows.

28
29 Figure 1a shows a prior art stored voice paging receiver without a display
30 means that enables a called party to fast forward and reverse through voice messages
31 received. Though useful, this type of device requires the called party to listen to part

1 of each message received before determining which message to listen to. The
2 invention described herein teaches how an improved stored voice paging receiver can
3 include a display that shows the identity of the callers before the voice message is
4 selected and heard by the called party.

5

6 In Figure 1b is shown one embodiment which may receive textual caller
7 identifying data and display the data on a display means. Additionally, received
8 textual caller identifying data can be applied to a text to speech synthesis section for
9 annunciation prior to the replay of a voice message. Alternatively, caller identifying
10 information may be received in an audible voice form and played prior to the replay of
11 a voice message.

12

13 Figure 1c shows an alternative embodiment of a stored voice paging receiver
14 with prestored voice or sound signals and a coincidence detector, along with a DTMF
15 tone decoder.

16

17 Figure 1d shows an alternative embodiment of a non-display autodialing type
18 paging receiver with text-to-speech synthesis.

19

20 A detailed description of the device operation in Figures 1b - 1d will follow later
21 in this specification.

22

23 Figure 2a shows a paging system to be described hereinafter in which caller id
24 data is received and stored at a called station location with a message center device
25 and retransmitted to a paging center over the public switched telephone network
26 (PSTN).

27

28 Figure 2b shows an alternative embodiment in which a personal message
29 center is located at the telephone office (102) rather than at the called party office
30 (300), such as voice mail service offered by the Regional Bell Operating Companies
31 such as Pacific Bell Telephone. For brevity, the discussions herein are directed to

1 Figure 2a although it is recognized that the inventions described herein could
2 be applied to a system such as described in Figure 2b, or other similar systems.

3

4 In Figure 2a, a calling party places TEL 1 in an off-hook condition and initiates a
5 communication over the PSTN via telephone line (501) to an originating central
6 office(101) through telephone line (502) to terminating central office (102). The caller
7 id data is supplied in the conventional manner between the ringing signals from the
8 terminating central office (102) through telephone line (503) to a called station location
9 (300) which has a message center (301) and extension telephone TEL 3.

10

11 Alternately, caller id data in an ISDN environment can be sent as described in
12 Bellcore document SR-NWT-002006 entitled National ISDN, U.S. Patent 4,899,358
13 and 4,922,490 patents issued Blakely, and other Bellcore technical references widely
14 available and not described but incorporated herein by reference. Typically caller
15 identifying data supplied from custom calling services in an ISDN environment can be
16 received and stored at a message center similar to a POTS environment and later
17 transmitted to a paging receiver held by a remotely located called party.

18

19 Message center device (301) may be a conventional telephone answering
20 device, a personal computer with voice/fax mail or modem communications, or a
21 conventional facsimile device, or some other device suitable for receiving incoming
22 calls automatically and initiating automatic outgoing calls automatically to a paging
23 center in response to calls received.

24

25 US Patents 4,737,979, 4,821,308, 5,333,179, 5,159,624, 5,208,850, 5,077,786,
26 5,014,296 and 4,985,913 and 5,128,980 are all variants of such devices and are
27 incorporated herein by reference, though not fundamental to the claimed invention.
28 For example, 4,821,308 issued to Hashimoto requires manual DTMF entry by a calling
29 party of the calling parties number. In 4,985,913 caller identifying information can be
30 automatically received and stored to generate a particular paging notification but the
31 actual caller identifying data received and stored is not transmitted to a called

1 communicant through a paging center.

2

3 Fundamental circuitry for telephony and telephone related devices can be
4 found in Understanding Telephone Electronics, Third Edition, by Bigelow, also
5 incorporated herein by reference. Also incorporated herein by reference is a textbook
6 entitled Voice Processing written by Gordon E. Pelton which is a useful reference for
7 fundamental concepts discussed in this specification.

8

9 Additionally, other devices that may be incorporated in the message center
10 include a telephone answering device with video telephone as described in US
11 5,046,079, also incorporated herein by reference. Such a device is capable of
12 receiving a picture signal sent between the ringing signals that is intended to establish
13 the identity of the calling party similar to conventional textual or audible caller id
14 information. The caller identifying video image may be stored on a recording medium.
15 Telephone devices at the calling party side (TEL 1) that could be used include the
16 AT&T VideoPhone 2500 or other popular teleconferencing products available recently
17 on the personal computer. For example, US Patent 5,278,889 incorporated herein by
18 reference describes one such implementation of a video telephony system. For
19 purposes of brevity it is understood that methods other than those discussed at length
20 for textual data detection and reception would be more appropriate for transmitting
21 caller identifying video images, as is well known in the art.

22

23 Message Center device (301) may automatically initiate an off-hook condition in
24 response to a ringing signal by using a ring detect interface circuit or some other
25 means, as is well known in the art. The Message Center device (301) also has a
26 caller id detection circuit which is suitable for detecting caller id data transmitted in
27 between the first and second ringing signals. The caller id detection circuit for textual
28 data includes a filter and demodulator circuit that is used for demodulating a 300 baud
29 rate of incoming serial data stream using the technique of Frequency Shift keying.
30 Data received by the circuit may include data representing the incoming telephone
31 number, name, date and time of the current incoming call

1
2 In a Personal Computer device equipped with a modem that can receive
3 incoming calls, caller id can also be received. Such a device is becoming more
4 popular with users in that a variety of modems that can receive facsimile and/or
5 facsimile combined with voice messages are currently available. In US 5,343,516
6 issued to Callele et al. is shown a computer system which can receive caller
7 identification information supplied between the ringing signals in the conventional
8 manner, which is incorporated herein by reference. This invention is interesting in that
9 it provides for the delivery of caller id information to a computer device connected to
10 the PSTN which can transfer caller id data over a network to other computers and
11 telephone sets that are the destination of the incoming telephone call. This patent
12 does not teach how to communicate this information to a remote wireless personal
13 communicator however.

14
15 In one embodiment as described in this invention, the modem monitors the
16 phone line between the first and second ring burst without causing the data access
17 arrangement to go off hook in the conventional sense, which would inhibit
18 transmission of Calling Number Identification. A V.23 1200 bbs modem receiver
19 may be used to demodulate the Bell 202 signal. The ring indicate bit (RI) may be used
20 on a modem to indicate when to monitor the phone line for CND information. After the
21 RI bit sets, indicating the first ring burst, the host waits for the RI bit to reset. The host
22 then configures the modem to monitor the phone line for Calling Number
23 Identification. The CND signalling starts as early as 300 ms after the first ring burst
24 and ends at least 475 mS before the second ring burst.

25
26 The received calling Number Identification may then be stored in a memory
27 means in the Personal Computer as herein described. Calling name and other
28 information could also be received, stored and transmitted using ascii character
29 representations of the data in a similar fashion. In an alternative embodiment, the
30 received number information could be used with a table look-up to append the
31 prestored calling parties name in the personal computer with the received numeric

1 invention described herein, the identity of the calling party is delivered automatically to
2 the called party paging receiver.

3

4 ANI may also be delivered to the message center device and then
5 retransmitted to a paging center with multi-frequency or DTMF tones using a
6 somewhat different data transmission protocol from caller id, which will now be
7 described.

8

9 The information delivered from ANI ranges from Level A service that provides
10 caller area code only to Level D service that provides caller area code, city, local
11 exchange # and phone #. Further details about ANI are shown in US Patent
12 4,942,598 issued to Davis and Bellcore Technical Reference TR-NWT-000064 and
13 FSD 20-20-0000 entitled LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements - Automatic
14 Number Identification and Operator Number Identification, which are both incorporated
15 herein by reference. Such an alternative arrangement may prove to be useful to
16 customers utilizing inbound 800 numbers as the primary access for calling parties to a
17 message center.

18

19 ANI DETECTOR USED IN A PAGING CENTER

20

21 In a related disclosure, ANI information instead of caller id information can be
22 used for transmission to a called party personal communicator. By incorporating an
23 ANI decoder directly within a paging center, calling party ANI information can be
24 incorporated in a system similar to that shown in copending applications 08/177,550
25 and 08/177,551.

26

27 Hereinafter, the generic term caller id shall be used interchangeably to describe
28 conventional number and number/name caller id, ANI, video, fax header or alternate
29 manually entered caller identifying data.

30

31 It should be understood that when a particular implementation is referring to

1 ANI, the necessary decoding circuitry and transmission protocol would be used as
2 opposed to different decoding circuitry and transmission protocol used for Caller ID or
3 other caller identifying data.

4

5

6 CALLER ID USED IN A PAGING SYSTEM WITH A SEPARATE MESSAGE
7 CENTER

8

9 The message center device includes a memory to store and retrieve caller
10 identifying data received in a memory means, as is well known in the art. One such
11 apparatus is described in US 5,238,818 and US 5,390,346 issued to Klausner et al
12 and incorporated herein by reference. The message center device (301) also has
13 prestored paging transmission data in a memory means which may include at least the
14 telephone number of the paging center and any pager id data that will ensure data
15 transmitted will be sent to the appropriate called party. The pager id data typically
16 ranges from 4 to 15 digits in length to uniquely identify a paging receiver. Such
17 prestored data may be automatically recalled at the message center to generate
18 dialing instructions to a paging center upon receipt and storage of an incoming call
19 and optional data message.

20

21 Upon receiving caller id data supplied from the terminating central office at the
22 called station location, the caller id data is stored in a memory means or on a hard disk
23 drive and the message center device then initiates an off-hook condition to answer the
24 call. Then if the message center device (301) is of the type that stores voice
25 messages, an outgoing message such as conventionally generated by a telephone
26 answering machine or PC voice mail system or video telephone answering machine
27 may be transmitted to the calling party and a calling party may respond by
28 annunciating a voice or video message. The voice or video message is received and
29 stored at the message center (301). In addition, the stored voice or video data may be
30 encoded or compressed to conserve memory storage space in the message center
31 device. Compression of the message data will also reduce transmission time required

1 later when the message data is sent in a subsequent paging transmission from the
2 message center device (301) to a paging center (105). One such compression
3 algorithm which is known as G.723 is slated for approval by the International
4 Telecommunications Union (ITU). It is intended for use with real-time multimedia,
5 simultaneous voice and data, and conferencing applications. A software solution that
6 delivers such a compression algorithm is available from a company known as DSP
7 Group, Inc. out of Santa Clara, California, known as TrueSpeech. This software
8 currently will run on processors such as the Texas Instruments TMS320C5X, Motorola
9 56156 Digital Signal Processor, Intel 386/486/Pentium, Analog Devices 2100 and
10 other processors.

11

12 The voice or other data may be stored contiguously in a memory location with
13 caller id data received or stored in a different memory location and associated with
14 caller id data received and stored, for later transmission to a called party personal
15 communicator(201). After the data is stored on a recording means at the message
16 center device (301) the calling party at TEL 1 hangs up.

17

18 Other message data received by the message center and associated with
19 caller id data could be received and stored in a similar fashion. For example, the
20 message center may receive a facsimile image, or a video telephone message.
21 Received facsimile or video image data could be stored with caller ID or caller
22 identifying data and transmitted to a paging receiver adapted to store and view
23 facsimiles or video images along with associated caller id or caller identifying data.
24 Such data could be encrypted such as is described in US 5,285,496 issued to Frank et
25 al. and incorporated herein by reference or encoded as previously described to reduce
26 the message size for storage and transmission.

27

28 Other textual special message data such as described in US 4,811,382 could
29 be captured at the message center to be transmitted to a paging center, which is
30 herein incorporated by reference. This textual data could be sent to the message
31 center in place of caller identifying data or along with caller identifying data that could

1 be used as a header record for notification within a personal communicator device.

2

3 Upon detecting that the called party has disconnected, the message center
4 device (301) hangs up. Then the message center device (301) is returned to an off
5 hook condition and automatic paging instructions are retrieved from the prestored
6 memory means in the message center device. In the case where a paging transmitter
7 is integral to the message center, no outward dialing to the PSTN is required but
8 instead, a paging transmission may occur directly. In the case where a second
9 telephone line is connected to the message center, the message data received on the
10 first telephone line from the calling party could be sent out to a paging center over the
11 second telephone line prior to disconnection with the calling party on the first
12 telephone line.

13

14 Follows is described a system where a paging center is connected to the
15 message center by a connection with the PSTN. Dialing instructions prestored
16 typically would include the modem access # for the paging center, and a pin #
17 associated with a particular personal communicator device or pager which is usually
18 either 4, 7, or 15 digits in length, but could be any unique identifying data. A calling
19 signal is sent to a paging center (105) through telephone line (503) to originating
20 central telephone office (102) and telephone line (504), to terminating central
21 telephone office (103).

22

23 Terminating central telephone office (103) is connected to paging center (105)
24 by a modem adapted to establish communication using predetermined
25 communications protocol suitable for the type of paging service provided. For
26 example, data communication protocol may be significantly different for numeric data
27 from that required for stored voice data communications.

28

29 The paging center (105) answers in response to a calling signal from a
30 message center and the data representative of caller id data is sent to the paging
31 center from the memory of the message center. The caller identifying data is sent to

1 caller id data for retransmission to an alphanumeric paging center. Blocked
2 information represented by the ASCII character "P" could also be received , stored
3 and retransmitted to a paging center, or used to inhibit a paging transmission to a
4 personal communicator device. Alternate numbers could be specified by the calling
5 party to be used as the Incoming Line Identification number, as is seen in US
6 5,283,824 issued to Shaw and incorporated herein by reference. The calling party may
7 be provided with the option of having the number of his calling station or some other
8 number used as the Incoming Caller Identification number such as his/her home or
9 business telephone number. This option could be provided to the calling party by the
10 telephone switch in the case of a credit card or other type call, or could be provided to
11 the calling party by the message center by means of audible voice instructions . In
12 either case alternate data could be stored for later transmission from the message
13 center to a paging transmitter.

14

15 The caller identifying data could also be used as described in US 4,985,913,
16 US 5,278,894 and others incorporated herein by reference, in which customized
17 greeting messages could be used when particular caller id data is received at the
18 message center.

19

20 Alternatively, the message center device (301) may include an ANI detection
21 circuit rather than the caller id detection circuit previously described. ANI encoding is
22 a function performed by the network which identifies the originating phone number of
23 the message delivered to the received telephone line. ANI encoding is currently used
24 in "911" information systems, 800 and 900 numbers and many private PBX exchange
25 systems. For example, in US 4,313,035 issued to Jordan et al. incorporated herein by
26 reference is described a paging service in which the ANI directory telephone number
27 of the calling party may be delivered and stored at a TSPS (Traffic Service Position
28 System) and stored in a data base. Using a paging facility such as the BELLBOY
29 personal signalling system, a paging signal can be generated to a remote called party.
30 The called party, in response to an alert in a paging receiver, can then initiate an
31 inquiry call to determine the identity of the caller and return the call. In the improved

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1 the paging center using the predetermined signalling protocol (to be discussed
2 hereinafter) followed or preceded by any optional data to be transmitted. Alternatively,
3 the message center could employ a tone or other decoder responsive to control
4 signals generated by the paging center. Such a tone or other tone decoder could be
5 employed prior to initiating the transmission of caller id and message data using a
6 predetermined signalling protocol, rather than automatically transmitting the data by
7 default or after a predetermined time period elapsed. As one example of various
8 signalling protocols that could be used, US Patent 4,878,051 and 4,868,860 issued to
9 Andros et al. is incorporated herein by reference.

10

11 Copending applications 08/177,550 and 08/177,851 both deal with paging
12 centers of the type that incorporate a caller id detection circuit connected to the paging
13 center that allow automatic detection and transmission of caller identification data to a
14 numeric, alphanumeric, or stored voice paging receiver or personal communication
15 device.

16

17 If the paging center is the type which allows caller id data to be detected from
18 an incoming caller and transmitted to a paging receiver automatically as described in
19 the above patent applications, the transmission of caller id data may be prevented by
20 a special signal present in the data transmission from the message center or by some
21 other means. For example by preceding the string of data sent from the message
22 center with a # sign, the paging center will detect the "#" sign and disable storage
23 and transmission of any caller identification data received at the caller id detector of
24 the paging center for that particular incoming call from the message center (301).
25 Such caller id data of the message center location would not be transmitted to the
26 called party portable communication device(201) in this case. Instead, the caller id
27 data of the original calling party would be sent to the pager. In another example, a
28 caller id blocking signal could be appended to the outward dialing signal that would
29 instruct the terminating central office to block transmission of caller id data from the
30 message center. Alternatively, the absence of a special signal in the string of data
31 sent from the message center (301) could indicate that the caller id data detected by

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1 the caller id detector in the paging center and the string of prestored caller identifying
2 data from the message center would both be sent to called party personal
3 communicator (201). Alternatively, only the caller identification data corresponding to
4 the message center could be sent and the caller id data corresponding to the original
5 calling party could be prevented from transmission to a called party personal
6 communicator. Such modifications in the invention herein provide flexibility for the
7 called parties to receive very diverse information at their paging receiver. Additionally
8 receipt of, in the above case, a "#" sign could allow for the storage of the caller id data
9 corresponding to the incoming call from the message center, but prevent the data from
10 being transmitted along with data received from the message center. Such a feature
11 would be useful to the operators at the paging center who might wish to know from
12 where their call volume originated.

13

14 In yet an alternative embodiment, the paging subscriber could predetermine in
15 advance at the paging center which calling parties they wished to receive pages from.
16 Any other calling parties not having a corresponding caller id signal that matched the
17 prestored preferences at the paging center would not be able to cause a paging signal
18 to be transmitted.

19

20 If paging center (105) is not of the type that is caller id enabled, then no such
21 special code is necessary to inhibit unwanted caller id data of the message center
22 (301) from transmission. In this case the caller id and other data received and stored
23 at the message center (301) may be automatically, or in response to a control signal
24 originating from the paging center (105), be transmitted to the paging center from the
25 message center. The message center could also automatically insert other caller
26 identifying or other data corresponding to items such as the number of facsimile pages
27 or actual voice or fax message received, or some other useful information to be sent
28 to a paging center along with the caller id data and optional message data.

29

30 In one preferred embodiment within the message center (301), the caller ID
31 data is recalled from the memory means of the message center and converted to

1 DTMF signals. One device particularly useful for conversion of caller id data to DTMF
2 signals is manufactured by Nicollet Technologies, Inc. known as the DTS-2040.

3

4 Such DTMF signals representative of numeric caller id data are then
5 transmitted from the message center to the paging center after the paging center has
6 answered the call initiated by the message center and signalled that it is ready to
7 receive data. This feature is especially useful in a numeric paging environment.

8

9 Conversion at the message center of the stored caller id data to be
10 retransmitted over the PSTN to a paging center is not limited to DTMF signals, but
11 may also include other signalling means appropriate for alphanumeric data typically
12 received from caller id services such as name and date information. In another device
13 manufactured by Nicollet Industries, Inc., the DTS-1082 can capture caller id data and
14 convert it to ascii data for storage and later retransmission from the message center to
15 a paging center.

16

17 In addition, fax header or E-mail information received at the message center
18 could be used alternatively as caller identifying information. Figures 6a and 6b
19 summarize one embodiment of this concept. The message center could, for example,
20 upon detection of a CNG tone, store conventional fax header information received for
21 retransmission to a paging center or for transmission to a personal communicator
22 directly from a paging transmitter integral or directly connected to the message center.
23 The fax header or Email information could be transmitted to a personal communicator
24 device that has prestored caller data contained in a memory along with a comparing
25 means. The caller data could include a variety of information corresponding to
26 frequent callers, including name, address, telephone number, fax number, and E mail
27 addresses for each calling party. Additionally, a prestored voice annunciation
28 corresponding to the identity of a caller or a prestored video image representative of
29 the calling party could also be included in each caller record. Upon detection of a
30 coincidence between the fax or E mail or other data received, the other associate data
31 from the corresponding data record could be made available to the called party

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2

3 CALLER IDENTIFYING DATA COMPRISED OF FAX HEADER DATA
4 TRANSMITTED TO A PAGING CENTER AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR
5 DEVICE

6

7 Fax header information and the protocol for communication between facsimile
8 message communications devices is notoriously old. For reference, see the book
9 entitled FAX: Digital Facsimile Technology and Applications, Second Edition, and
10 Standards developed by the CCITT (International Telegraph and Telephone
11 Consultative Committee) including T.30 incorporated herein by reference. Other
12 standards are widely known though not discussed in detail here.

13

14 Briefly, in a message center which is receiving a Group 3 fax from a calling
15 party, the calling parties device can send a coded signal known as the transmit
16 subscriber identification (TSI) after handshaking is established during what is referred
17 to as the call set up or phase A. Typically the calling fax dials the telephone number of
18 the message center over the PSTN. The ring signal and the CNG calling tone are
19 received at the called message center and the CNG tone indicates the call is from a
20 fax machine instead of a voice call. The called message center answers the call by
21 going off hook. Then typically after a one second delay, the called message center
22 sends its called station identification (CSI), a 3 second 2100 Hz tone, back to the
23 calling fax machine.

24

25 Then during Phase B known as the premessage procedure, the called fax
26 machine sends the TSI which includes at least the telephone number of the calling
27 party fax machine. This information is typically used in the message center as fax
28 header information. But in this invention, it could be used alternatively as caller
29 identifying data that can be stored in a memory at the message center for transmission
30 to a paging center to a personal communicator device similar to the methods
31 described for other caller id data. Such TSI data could be used alternatively for those

1 areas or users that do not have caller id service. In addition, such message data in
 2 the TSI may include alphanumeric characters representing the calling party, time and
 3 date information and page number data. In a system using only number only caller id,
 4 for example, the alphanumeric data corresponding to the name of the sending party
 5 contained in the TSI could be appended to the numeric caller id data for transmission
 6 to a paging center and personal communicator device. Such a method could be
 7 activated by the detection of a CNG signal at the message center. Alternatively, a
 8 means of counting the pages received could be employed at the message center, and
 9 the total number of pages received could be appended to the caller identifying data. In
 10 another embodiment, only faxes of a certain length would be sent to a personal
 11 communicator device.

12

13 Predefined user preferences could be used within the message center along
 14 with a comparing means using the caller identifying TSI information to determine
 15 whether the image data received would be sent to a personal communicator device or
 16 just the notification data comprised of the caller identifying data.

17

18 In any case, alphanumeric caller identifying data could be transmitted to a
 19 paging center or through an integral paging transmitter connected to the message
 20 center using the same alphanumeric protocol currently used in conventional
 21 alphanumeric paging systems known as TAP or IXO, incorporated herein by
 22 reference. These protocols could be suitable signalling means for transmission of
 23 alphanumeric caller id data from the personal message center device to a paging
 24 service modem. Typically this conventional alphanumeric protocol operates at 300
 25 baud and is well known in the art.

26

27 Of course in this case the paging center would require a suitable decoder that
 28 could receive and decode the alphanumeric data from the message center. This
 29 feature is especially desirable in an alphanumeric paging service in that some textual
 30 alphanumeric information may be transmitted automatically for the calling party using
 31 a conventional telephone at the TEL 1 which is typically devoid of any alphanumeric

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1 input means. This is a significant improvement over the prior art. Various other
2 signalling protocols could be used between the message center device and the
3 modem at the paging center without departing from the spirit of this invention that may
4 be more adapted to higher data transmission speeds, compression algorithms or the
5 like. For example, the PCIA has made available other protocols for alternative data
6 transmission such as image and other data referred to as TDP Protocol, issued June
7 12, 1993, which is incorporated herein by reference. These protocols could be
8 modified to incorporate caller identifying data fields for transmission with other optional
9 data. Some paging centers do not adhere strictly to published protocol but instead
10 have a variant of their own. In this case, it could be possible for the message center to
11 establish the protocol used by the paging center dynamically by first recognizing and
12 then selecting from among several different known protocols for subsequent
13 transmission of the alphanumeric caller identifying data in a form recognized by the
14 paging center. Incorporated herein by reference is a good reference entitled
15 Understanding Data Communications, Third Edition by Held which gives a
16 fundamental overview of various communications methods and terminology.

17

18 **TEXT TO SPEECH CONVERSION CONDUCTED AT THE TERMINATING**
19 **CENTRAL OFFICE**

20

21 Alternatively, the terminating central office (102) could apply a text to speech
22 converter, similar to that shown in US 4,899,358 issued to Blakely, in which an
23 annunciated caller identifying signal is sent from the terminating switch to the message
24 center device at the called station location. It is incorporated herein by reference.
25 Such annunciated caller identifying information could be particularly useful when used
26 in a stored voice paging receiver similar to devices shown in US 4,965,569 Bennett et
27 al., US 4,868,560 issued to Oliwa, 4,873,520 issued to Fisch et al., and US 5,153,579
28 Fisch et al., also incorporated herein by reference.

29

30 In one embodiment the caller id data is supplied to the message center from
31 the terminating central office as an audible voice representation of caller id data and

1 stored at the message center. Such data may also be encoded as previously
2 described to conserve memory storage.

3

4 In this embodiment the audible encoded caller id data can be transferred to a
5 paging center as previously described along with any optional data for transmission
6 from a paging center and annunciation at a personal communication device.

7

8 TEXT TO SPEECH CONVERSION WITHIN THE MESSAGE CENTER OR PAGING
9 CENTER

10

11 Alternatively, received and stored textual caller id data could be applied to a
12 speech synthesizer unit contained within the message center or paging center, as
13 partly described in US Patent 4,720,848 issued to Akiyama, 5,349,638 issued to
14 Pitroda et al. or US 4,742,516 issued to Yamaguchi, which deals with a
15 communication system with a voice announcement means. They are herein
16 incorporated by reference. Also incorporated herein by reference is a software
17 product offered by Stylus Innovation, Inc. out of Cambridge Mass. known as Visual
18 Voice which runs on a personal computer. Using a digital signal processor in the
19 personal computer, text to speech processing can be applied to caller id data. The
20 resulting speech signals representative of the caller id data can be stored in a storage
21 means within the message center for transmission to a stored voice paging center.

22

23 In addition, the Visual Voice system has an international language support that
24 can speak the caller id data in the language desired by the called party at a personal
25 communication device or at the message center. In any case, received textual caller
26 identifying data which is stored at the message center is transferred to a paging
27 center and transmitted as audible speech signals to a stored voice paging receiver.
28 Alternatively, the textual data may be applied to a text to speech converter within a
29 personal communication device for annunciation, as is well known in the art.

30

31 Irrespective of the signalling used after the calling party has disconnected with the

1 message center, DTMF or other signals representing the stored caller id data are sent
 2 from the message center through the PSTN to the paging center. Any optional data
 3 such as additional voice message data, DTMF, image or other message data entered
 4 by the calling party may also be transferred from the message center (301) memory
 5 means to the paging center for transmission to the called party personal communicator
 6 (210) via radio link (509). Such a feature is useful in paging systems which include
 7 stored voice paging receivers and non-voice paging systems such as described in
 8 5,095,307 or 4,961,216, which are also incorporated herein by reference. In the case
 9 where caller id service is not available to a calling or called party, particularly in the
 10 case of stored voice paging systems, a DTMF entry could be made by the calling party
 11 to represent the caller identifying data to be transmitted with optional data such as a
 12 voice message. If the caller id detector failed to detect any caller id, a default voice
 13 message prompt could be generated by the message center that instructed the caller
 14 to enter at least their telephone number in the conventional manner using an input
 15 device at the calling parties telephone. Then the caller could be instructed to leave an
 16 optional voice message which could then be transmitted to a paging center after the
 17 caller hangs up. Such data would be stored at the message center as previously
 18 described and then the message center could automatically call the paging center.
 19 Alternatively, caller identifying data could be detected, an acknowledgement of the
 20 received and stored caller id data could be annunciated back to the caller, and an
 21 option could be given to modify or change the caller id data prior to leaving a voice or
 22 other optional data message.

23

24 Other caller identifying data which may be more readily recognized by the
 25 called party could be entered in place of the caller id data for example.

26

27 The information could then be transmitted by the paging center and received at
 28 a stored voice paging receiver for display, annunciation and used as redial data within
 29 the personal communicator device. This feature is especially useful in those cases
 30 where no caller identifying data would otherwise be associated with a voice message
 31 for transmission to a stored voice paging receiver or personal communicator device

1 and is a significant improvement over the prior art stored voice paging receivers.

2

3 A special code such as "" or some other special code could be used to signal
4 the end of any DTMF or other signal data representative of caller id and to signify the
5 beginning of transmission of optional data stored at the message center. This code
6 could be automatically included by the personal message center or manually entered
7 by the calling party for storage and transmission with the caller identifying data string
8 stored at the personal message center. Optional data, such as a voice message or
9 other data entered or sent by a calling party could then be stored and transmitted after
10 the caller identifying data and demarcation code. Other coding methodologies which
11 demarc the stored caller id data from other stored optional message data may be used
12 and are not fundamental to the claimed invention herein but are considered obvious to
13 those skilled in the art.

14

15 In the example above, wherein said optional data is a voice message, the
16 receipt of a special code signal at the paging center (105) from the message center
17 (301) could enable a voice storage memory and receiving means at the paging center
18 to distinguish other data representative of caller id information from optional data such
19 as voice messages. In addition, the data types of the caller identifying data and
20 optional message data could be different from each other and not require any
21 demarcation data. In one such case, caller identifying textual data could be detected
22 by one type of detector at the paging transmitter, and voice or image data could be
23 detected by another type of detector at the paging transmitter. The paging center
24 could then store the data received and retransmit the data to a personal communicator
25 device.

26

27 The paging center may receive the optional data such as a voice or textual
28 message from the message center to be stored in a memory means at the paging
29 center. When the transmission is completed from the messaging center, the
30 communication with the paging center is ended and the message center and the
31 paging center hang up.

1

2 The paging center then initiates a paging transmission to the appropriate
3 paging receiver and retrieves any stored caller id data and optional data from the
4 memory means transferred from the message center. After the pager id is decoded in
5 the conventional fashion at the personal communicator device, the telephone number
6 and /or number and name (if present) and optional date and time information
7 representative of the caller id of the calling party, along with any optional data
8 message such as a voice, text or image message, are received by the called party
9 personal communicator.

10

11 Such received data could be stored in different memory locations or in one
12 contiguous memory within the personal communicator device, demarcated by the
13 special coding method employed, to be accessed within a stored voice or other paging
14 receiver held by the called party in a variety of ways known to those skilled in the art.

15

16 In one example, to access the caller id data, a called party might press a "view"
17 button to see the caller identifying data. Or by default, the caller id data might be
18 displayed automatically when received or after a PIN is entered by the called party. To
19 access the actual voice message, a called party might press a "play" button. Such a
20 personal communicator could also be responsive to voice commands annunciated by
21 the called party into a microphone and a voice command unit within the personal
22 communicator device which is connected to the microphone and is responsive to
23 commands such as "PLAY", "REWIND", "FORWARD", etc.. In addition, stored voice
24 messages could be recorded on a removable memory such as a PCMCIA memory
25 card that is now very popular in portable computing devices. Stored voice messages
26 with or without corresponding caller identifying data could be transferred from the
27 personal communicator device to another computing or voice message storage device
28 in a central location such as the office of the called party.

29

30 PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR DEVICE WITH IMPROVED TIME DATA INPUT
31 MEANS USING CALLER ID DATA

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2 In the caller id data received and stored at the paging center or message
3 center, time data corresponding to the time and date a communication was received
4 could be transmitted to a personal communicator device. This could be particularly
5 useful in a system in which several messages received were held in a queue for some
6 time before a transmission occurred to the personal communicator device. The time
7 data could be used as a sorting record at the paging center or message center to
8 determine which calls were transmitted in a batch fashion as opposed to immediately
9 transmitted upon receipt at the paging or message center.

10

11 For example, all calls received during peak periods during a certain time of day
12 may be transmitted later off-peak to reduce congestion on the wireless communication
13 system. Or all calls received during weekends or holidays could be transmitted in a
14 lower priority queuing sequence than calls received during the week. In addition,
15 message data received at the personal communicator could be organized and
16 accessed according to the date and time the communication was completed in a very
17 accurate and automatic fashion for the calling and called party. See related US Patent
18 4,872,005 issued to DeLuca et al. incorporated herein by reference.

19

20 In addition, such caller id time and date data could be used to initialize a time of
21 day clock contained within a personal communicator device such as a Personal
22 computer, cellular phone or the like. This could be beneficial in the circumstance
23 where a power failure erased the time and date information ordinarily entered
24 manually by a user. Other devices such as VCRs, automobile clocks and the like
25 could be equipped with a receiver that could accept such information as well.

26

27

28

29 CALLER ID FROM A PBX WITH AN INTEGRATED OR CONNECTED
30 TRANSMITTER TO A PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR

31

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1 The message center could be directly connected to a paging transmitter that
2 would not require a dial in via the PSTN to a paging network. In one embodiment, the
3 message center and the paging transmitter could be an apparatus similar to that
4 described in US 5,151,930 issued to Hagl which describes a paging system within a
5 telephone private branch exchange and incorporated herein by reference. Such a
6 system could be modified such that any calls coming in from outside the PBX could be
7 passed through a caller id detector circuit as previously described, and this information
8 could be sent through to a personal communicator or call device.

9

10 In an alternate embodiment, caller id data could be delivered to a local paging
11 system such as a unit offered by Motorola known as "Site-call" which is typically
12 connected to a PBX such as the Meridian 1 manufactured by Northern Telecom.

13

14 Appropriate software and hardware at the PBX could capture and deliver ANI
15 or Caller ID data to the "Site-Call" or similar local paging system. The prior art local
16 paging systems require a calling party to enter their telephone number by DTMF entry,
17 which is then transmitted by a local paging transmitter. This is limited in that only
18 numeric data may be received and displayed to alert a called party. Alternatively in the
19 prior art systems, a message such as "outside call" is displayed at the pager. By
20 integrating various concepts taught in the invention herein, telephone number data
21 and other caller identifying data may be automatically sent from a PBX to an onsite
22 pager for display, annunciation, or other alerting means.

23

24 Alternately, a call could be received at the PBX and if the call was unanswered
25 at the called station, a message could be taken in a voice mail center and the caller id
26 data(along with an optional voice or other message) could be delivered to a paging
27 receiver by way of an onsite or offsite paging transmitter.

28

29 The message center device may be directly connected to a paging terminal,
30 thereby eliminating the necessity of a second connection to the telephone network.
31 The paging terminal could be a "People Finder" paging terminal manufactured by

1 Motorola, Inc..

2

3 In another implementation, the message center device is interfaced to a
4 paging terminal such as the Modax paging terminal manufactured by Motorola, Inc.
5 which was adapted to transmit additional caller identification information with a
6 standard paging transmission. The interface from the message center to the paging
7 terminal may be through a 1 or 2 telephone line interface. The interconnection to a
8 paging terminal and the terminal's subsequent operation are well known in the art.
9 The paging terminal transmits to a personal communicator which is capable of
10 receiving and decoding paging signals modulated by the paging terminal in a radio
11 frequency manner. The personal communicator also has the capability to store a
12 message and to play back a message which may include caller identifying source
13 indicator data as previously described that may be viewed on a display member or
14 heard first through an annunciation means.

15

16 In FIGURE 2b is described a message center which is at the telephone office
17 rather than the called party office. The concepts previously described for a called
18 party office based message center could also be modified and incorporated in the
19 conventional voice mail system offered by the telephone company.

20

21 **AUTOMATIC PAGING TELEPHONE SET USING CALLER ID INSTEAD OF DTMF**
22 **FOR CALLER IDENTIFYING DATA**

23

24 In US 5,128,980 issued to Choi is described a system in which a calling party
25 may enter their phone number using DTMF for automatic transmission to a paging
26 center and is incorporated herein by reference. This method could be modified to
27 incorporate a caller id detector which would be substituted for, or supplied in addition
28 to, the DTMF receiver. When the device is in a pager number recording mode (either
29 between the first and second ringing signals or after the device is placed in an off-hook
30 position) the caller id data may be entered and stored automatically for the calling
31 party, may be manually entered by DTMF entry by the calling party, or may be entered

1 and stored using part of the caller id data supplied automatically and part of the data
2 manually entered by the calling party. Then the caller identifying data can be
3 transmitted to a paging center along with any optional data as described in the patent
4 in an automatic, manual, or combined fashion.

5

6 COINCIDENCE DETECTION WITHIN THE MESSAGE CENTER

7

8 Optional data such as a voice message can be selectively transmitted to the
9 called party, based on some comparator at the message center that analyzes the
10 source identity of the calling party with prestored user preferences determined in
11 advance by the called party. Or by default, all optional data received could either be
12 stored for later retrieval by the called party or stored and transmitted to the called party
13 personal communicator device along with the caller identifying data. The paging
14 transmission can be encoded at the paging transmitter to economize on valuable
15 transmission time, and then later decoded on a real time or delayed basis within the
16 receiving called party personal communicator. Private flagged caller id data and
17 optional messages may be automatically omitted from storage at the message center
18 or omitted from transmission to a personal communicator device.

19

20 STORED VOICE COMMUNICATOR WITH TEXT HEADER INFORMATION 21 DISPLAY

22 Incorporated herein by reference is US 5,390,362 issued to Modjeska et al.
23 This patent discloses a method of combining voice and data into a message format
24 that can be sent to a pager capable of receiving a combination voice and data
25 message. A called party may selectively review header information corresponding to
26 the calling party prior to listening to any received voice message. A paging transmitter
27 such as described in this disclosure can be modified to incorporate a caller id or ANI
28 decoder (207) or fax signal decoder (209) in automatic telephone input (202) that can
29 receive data automatically from the PBX or PSTN (108) and store this data in paging
30 terminal controller memory (232). Voice synthesizer (208) can playback for the calling
31 party a text to speech synthesized representation of caller id or ANI data and ask

1 whether the data should be sent with the paging message. For example, the voice
2 synthesizer (208) can receive textual caller id or ANI data such as "5556-1212 John
3 Smith" from the ANI or Caller ID decoder and then generate the following instructional
4 message to the calling party, "Press or say 'ONE' if you wish for '555-1212 John Smith
5 calling.' to be transmitted Press or say 'TWO' if you wish this information to be
6 transmitted and marked urgent. Press or say 'THREE' if you wish for this information
7 to not be sent and you wish to enter some other data from your touchtone keypad or
8 keyboard." The calling party, upon hearing the synthesized voice annunciation, then
9 can select which caller identifying data should be sent. In the case of a stored voice
10 paging system, upon hearing confirmation of the desired caller identifying data, the
11 calling party would then be instructed to leave a voice message, which would be
12 stored in the voice store and forward module (216). The confirmed caller identifying
13 data would be stored in memory 232 to be linked with the voice message data stored
14 in memory 224 for transmission from transmitter base station 226 to a selective call
15 receiver. In the case of a paging system equipped with a fax store and forward
16 module 216 and fax signal decoder 209, fax header information as previously
17 described could be received and stored in memory 232, fax data could be received
18 and stored in memory 224, and the contents of memories 224 and 232 could be
19 transmitted by transmitter base station 226 to a selective call receiver.

20

21 In US Patent 5,283,818 is shown a message system which describes a system
22 linking textual data with voice messages, and is incorporated herein by reference.
23 Such an apparatus could be modified to incorporate the transmission of caller
24 identifying data and voice data to a stored voice paging receiver, via a call from the
25 message center to a paging transmitter via the PSTN as previously described. In
26 addition, to economize on minimizing the time spent connecting with a paging center,
27 the messages received at the message center could be queued for batch transmission
28 either during offpeak periods or periodically. Exceptions could be made for urgent
29 message transmission that could occur without waiting for the message queue
30 transmission.

31

1 Another patent incorporated herein by reference is US 5,258,751 issued to
2 DeLuca et al. Message storage slots can include caller identifying data display which
3 has been transmitted to a selective call receiver or personal communication device as
4 discussed hereinbefore. Any corresponding voice or other message data can then be
5 displayed or annunciated after the user selects the desired message for review.

6

7 Upon receipt at the personal communicator device, the user could scroll
8 through the received messages such as described in US 5,285,493 issued to Wagai et
9 al. and incorporated herein by reference, or by numerous other methods discussed in
10 the various personal communicator apparatus described by reference or example
11 herein.

12

13 The messages could be stored chronologically, with resequencing of the
14 previously stored messages occurring automatically upon receipt of any new message
15 or deletion of any previously recorded message. Alternatively, the messages with the
16 caller id header data could be selectively stored as determined by the user in a
17 number of ways. The messages could be stored based upon preselected criteria. For
18 example, all messages determined to be of an urgent nature or from a particular
19 communicant could be automatically stored in the firstmost message storage slot
20 positions. In another embodiment, all messages could be analyzed and then stored
21 sequentially in an ascending or descending order, based on the caller id header data
22 presented. US Patent 5,225,826 is incorporated herein by reference and discloses a
23 selective call receiver with an integral time of day clock. Messages received with
24 identical header data records could be stored according to the time and date received
25 within the selective call receiver, the time and date data present in the header data, or
26 according to urgent indicators contained in the header data.

27

28 TEXT TO SPEECH CONVERSION OF CALLER ID HEADER DATA WITHIN A
29 PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR DEVICE

30

31 In another embodiment, the textual information received at the personal

1 communication device could be applied to a codec within the personal communicator
2 device which is particularly suited to visually impaired persons. Application of a text to
3 speech codec which converts received caller id signals to audible speech signals is
4 well known in the art, as shown in US 5,289,530 issued to Reese and incorporated
5 herein by reference. Such a personal communicator device could be manufactured
6 without a display member to reduce manufacturing costs for specialized purposes.

7

8 In the case of a stored voice message which is transmitted to a stored voice
9 type called party personal communicator without a display member, textual caller
10 identifying data could be annunciated. Such a device could also employ a display
11 member that was capable of selectively or simultaneously displaying caller identifying
12 data received at the personal communicator device.

13

14 COINCIDENCE DETECTION WITHIN A PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR DEVICE

15

16 Data representative of caller id information may be used at the called party
17 personal communicator as key record data which could comprise the notification
18 display or could generate some other associated notification means within the called
19 party personal communicator in response to receipt of the caller identifying portion of
20 the message. The personal communicator device could employ a coincidence
21 detector which may generate a number of notification events in response to a match
22 with prestored data or user preferences compared against the caller id data received.
23 For example, upon detecting that a coincidence existed with a prestored data record,
24 a prestored visual image of the calling party could be displayed. In another instance, a
25 coincidence detection within the personal communicator device could require a called
26 party to enter a personal identifying entry before the confidential message could be
27 reviewed. In yet another embodiment, a coincidence detection could inhibit any
28 associated message transmitted from a message center from being reviewed by the
29 called party at the personal communicator device. In yet other embodiments, received
30 fax header information or Email addresses could be compared against a prestored
31 directory within the personal communicator device to display or annunciate other

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1 corresponding data records.

2

3 EMBODIMENT USING BLOCKED CALLER ID DATA

4

5 Upon receipt of a "blocked" caller id data such as described in LSSGR - Class
6 Feature: Calling Identity Delivery Blocking Features - FSD 01-02-1053, US 5,341,411
7 issued to Hashimoto entitled Caller ID Blocking Method and Processing System, and
8 US Patent 5,161,181 issued to Zwick entitled Automatic Number Identification
9 Blocking System (all incorporated herein by reference and subject to modification with
10 the present invention), the personal communicator device could respond by not storing
11 the message at the message center which would have been directed to the personal
12 communicator device. In addition any blocked caller id data could be used at the
13 message center to store and prevent retransmission of the data to the personal
14 communicator device. Alternatively a calling party could selectively omit the
15 transmission of caller ID data by using the blocking signal and sending to the personal
16 communicator device only manually entered data, such as a DTMF signal, a card
17 swipe in a magnetic card reader, a voice message, image or other data in place of
18 caller id data automatically supplied by the telephone company.

19

20

21 REDIAL MEMORY EMBODIMENT

22

23 Received caller id data can be selectively transferred to a data buffer within the
24 called party personal communicator device for redialing, as seen in US 4,924,496
25 issued to Figa and US 4,873,719 issued to Reese, incorporated herein by reference.
26 Logic can be incorporated into the receiving device that distinguishes either
27 positionally or by filtering the numeric data from the alphanumeric data to ensure that
28 only the numeric data was retrieved and transferred to a data buffer for redial
29 instructions. Such redial instructions within a personal communicator device could
30 include the ability to distinguish between a local dialing mode in which caller identifying
31 data corresponds to call-back numbers within the local calling area. In this case, only

1 the local portion of the caller id data representing the calling parties telephone number
2 would be used to generate a dialing instruction from the personal communicator
3 device. In other cases, the entire caller id representing the telephone number of the
4 calling party could be used to generate a dialing signal. This is well known in the art
5 as described in US 4,985,918 issued to Tanaka.

6
7 Typically Caller ID data transmitted includes either 7 digit or 10 digit numeric
8 data corresponding to the calling parties telephone. Other recent proposals related to
9 the field of Caller Identification deal with automatic transmission of Caller identification
10 from international callers which may consist of less than the required data to complete
11 a return call to the original calling party but more than 7 or 10 digits.

12
13 In one embodiment, upon receipt of an interstate caller id consisting of a 10
14 digit numeric caller id number such as 305-555-1212, it is necessary to insert a "1"
15 prior to converting caller id data received into a dial signal for the called party to return
16 the call from a cellular telephone device which may be integral or connected to the
17 personal communicator device. Such caller id data as described herein would not
18 complete a dialing signal unless the user manually dialed the digit "1" before the
19 remaining digits were dialed out. As a function of the improved redial circuit in this
20 invention, any ten digit caller id data received and stored could automatically be
21 preceded with a digit "1" at the personal communicator device rather than requiring
22 manual entry by the called party prior to dialing. Additionally, in response to receipt of
23 an international caller id numeric sequence, the international caller id data could be
24 preceded by a country code and international calling code like "011" such as is
25 conventionally used. In an alternative embodiment, such additional calling code data
26 could be appended at the message center or at the paging center prior to transmission
27 to a personal communicator device. In some cases a called party may wish to call in
28 first to a long distance service such as 1-800-CALLATT, then enter their account code
29 and pin, and then redial the caller id number received.

30
31 In the case where a credit call should be made as described above, the

1 personal communicator device may not automatically insert any special calling codes
2 to be appended to the caller id data received, but instead may use the caller id data as
3 received for redial data after the other credit calling data is transmitted. In the case
4 where special calling code data has been appended prior to receipt at the personal
5 communicator device, the personal communicator device could strip away or disable
6 the calling codes such as "1" or "011" and only generate the necessary calling
7 sequence corresponding to the telephone number of the original calling party, using
8 the last 10 significant digits in the case of a domestic call. In any case such additional
9 features would be very beneficial to the user of such an equipped personal
10 communicator device with a redial feature.

11

12 Where caller identifying data received is comprised of speech signals that
13 represent the calling parties telephone number and/or name, such data could be
14 stored, transferred and used as a redial instruction from the personal communication
15 device to a communication network which was well equipped to receive voice
16 commands for a dialing instruction, such as is seen currently in the Sprint Voice
17 Foncard service and other services, incorporated herein by reference. Selectively or
18 in combination, the speech signals representing the name or telephone number of the
19 calling party could be generated by the personal communicator device to
20 communicate redial instructions to a communication system with voice recognition or
21 with speech command capability.

22

23 MEET ME SERVICE EMBODIMENT

24

25 Such features could be useful as well in a "Meet me" service in which a calling party is
26 placed on hold at the message center. Typically a calling party is instructed to remain
27 on hold and may be asked to enter their telephone number by DTMF entry or entry of
28 a special signal which constitutes a "meet" request. Then the DTMF or special signal
29 is sent through a paging transmitter to a paging receiver. When the paged
30 communicant receives the page, they may call back on a telephone link to the meet
31 me center to be connected with the calling party. However it requires manual entry by

1 the calling party of the call in number of the meet-me service and the called party
2 cannot always remember or know who may be calling by the telephone number alone.
3 Such information is critical for the called party to properly screen meet requests. One
4 system incorporated herein by reference is described in US 4,172,969 issued to
5 Levine et al. In this system, the caller is instructed to dial his calling number. The
6 signals are then conveyed over the telephone line to the receiver telephone answering
7 device to be transmitted to a mobile receiver unit. Another such system is described
8 in part by US 5,208,849 issued to Fu, incorporated herein by reference which can be
9 adapted to my invention. Another Meet me type system is described in US 5,327,480
10 issued to Breeden, and 5,151,929 issued to Wolf incorporated herein by reference
11 which can be adapted to my invention.

12

13 By incorporating the automatic transmission of calling party number and name
14 in an alphanumeric paging network for example, the called party can more accurately
15 determine who is calling before accepting the "meet" invitation. In the case where a
16 voice Caller ID is supplied by the terminating central office to the meet me service at
17 the message center, the called party can hear an annunciation of the callers identity
18 from a personal communicator device suitable for the replay of such information.

19

20 The called party personal communicator receives a "meet" request from the
21 paging center which consists of at least the meet request signal supplied
22 automatically or a meet request signal initiated by the calling party. In addition to, or in
23 place of the meet request signal, the caller id data received and stored at the message
24 center corresponding to the calling party on hold can be transmitted to the personal
25 communication device. The calling party could also at this time enter other additional
26 information such as an urgent indicator or special code agreed upon between the
27 calling party and the called party for transmission along with the caller id data and/or
28 meet request. In any case, the calling party is instructed to remain on hold while the
29 called party is paged for a possible meet by the paging center.

30

31 If the called party does not respond within a prescribed period of time, the

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1 calling party can then additionally be instructed to leave optional data such as a voice
2 message that can either be retrieved later by the called party, or can be transmitted to
3 the called party personal communicator after the caller disconnects. In another
4 embodiment if the calling party does not wish to wait any longer for the called party to
5 call in to the meet me center, then the called party can interrupt the meet me service
6 by for example depressing the # sign.

7

8 At this point the message center at the meet me service can instruct the caller
9 to enter optional data such as a voice message for storage and/or transmission to the
10 called party. After the calling party disconnects from the message center at the meet
11 me service, the message center can send an additional signal in a second
12 transmission to the personal communication device through a paging center or
13 integral paging transmitter. This signal can indicate that the calling party hung up and
14 that a "meet" with the calling party at the message center is not possible. This
15 transmission can also include any optional voice or other data left by the calling party.

16

17 Such data which is to be transmitted can be incorporated with the previously
18 stored caller id data at the message center for transmission to the personal
19 communicator device. Alternatively the optional data such as a voice message can be
20 transmitted to the called party personal communicator device and appended to, or
21 associated with received caller id data from the calling party.

22

23 In the above described or similar systems, the detected caller id information
24 can be transmitted automatically to the personal communicator device in a more
25 efficient manner that will provide more information to the called party and relieve the
26 calling party of inconvenience.

27

28 Of course caller id blocking options could be employed as previously described
29 in this application. Other variants of these "meet me" services could also easily
30 employ a caller id detector to transmit the caller identifying data automatically. For
31 sake of brevity, these various systems are not described in detail although it is

1 believed that those skilled in the art can adapt the methods described herein.

2

3 AUTO DIALING PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR EMBODIMENT

4

5 The paging receiver device could also be a dedicated paging receiver with a
6 DTMF signal generator such as seen in US 4,490,579 issued to Godoshian,
7 5,099,507 issued to Mukai et al. 5,280,516 issued to Jang or 5,212,721 issued to
8 DeLuca et al., incorporated herein by reference. Received caller id data received could
9 be used to generate a dialing signal in an acoustically coupleable dialer device, or via
10 an external telephone line connector within the called party personal communicator.
11 The received caller identifying data could be digital data representative of numeric
12 information corresponding to the call-back number of the calling party. Such received
13 digital data could be applied to a DTMF generator to output a dialing signal.

14

15 Alternatively, the received caller identifying data could be audible DTMF signals
16 which were recorded as audible signals at the message center after manual entry by a
17 calling party. In another embodiment, textual caller id data could be converted to
18 audible DTMF signals at the message center to be transferred to a voice paging
19 center as audible signals. Upon receipt at the paging center, the audible signals could
20 be transmitted to a personal communication device along with any optional data. The
21 audible DTMF sounds and optional data could be stored and replayed through a
22 speaker.

23

24 Alternatively the DTMF sounds could be converted to a dial signal for a cellular
25 telephone device or via a telephone line connector. The received audible DTMF
26 signals could be applied to a DTMF decoder and character generator within the
27 personal communicator device to display the audible DTMF sounds received. This
28 method could be particularly useful in that the personal communication device would
29 not require a DTMF generator to create a dialing signal. In addition, audible DTMF
30 sounds could be prestored into a personal communication device or dialing apparatus
31 by means of a computer download interface that releasably electrically or acoustically

1 coupled to a dialing apparatus or personal communicator with a memory means,
2 control means and data input receiving means.

3

4 These audible DTMF sounds could then be used as described previously to
5 generate an audible dial signal for acoustical coupling, or converted to an electrical
6 signal for other dialing means.

7

8 In a different embodiment, the received and stored DTMF sounds could be
9 applied to a DTMF decoder and character generator and optional text to speech unit
10 to display or annunciate the data received. The personal communicator or dialing
11 apparatus could interpret the stored audible DTMF signals within the personal
12 communicator or dialing device and generate a display or voice annunciation of the
13 telephone number information. This could be accomplished by a standard DTMF
14 decoder circuit and character generator such as described in US Patent 4,882,750
15 issued to Henderson et al. incorporated herein by reference and a text to speech unit
16 well known to those skilled in the art.

17

18 This improvement could be useful in autodialer devices such as described in
19 this patent. For example, a circuit commonly used to store voice signals such as the
20 Radio Shack, part number 276-1324 or Radio Shack part number 276-1325 could be
21 used to store and replay the received DTMF signals through a transducer in a
22 conventional autodialer. The audible DTMF signal could be received by a sound input
23 means which was connected to the circuit during a programming mode. During a
24 replay mode, the DTMF sounds previously programmed could be replayed through a
25 transducer attached to the autodialer, or the DTMF sounds could be transferred to a
26 transmitting means that could generate the DTMF signal to a communication link such
27 as in a cellular or landline communication system.

28

29 COMBINED PAGER / RADIOTELEPHONE EMBODIMENT

30

31 The paging receiver device could alternatively be contained within a cellular

1 telephone device as in US 5,117,449 issued to Metroka et al. or in US 5,148,473
2 issued to Freeland et al. in which a paging and cellular radio telephone function are
3 combined in a single device. These patents are also incorporated herein by reference.

4

5

6 When the paged party receives a page, the caller id data can be stored for later
7 use and an alert tone, a vibration, a visual indication or a voice message can alert the
8 called party who may be engaged in a telephone conversation on the cellular
9 telephone. When the paged party wishes to return the call from the calling party after
10 hanging up, the stored caller id data can be selected and recalled for dialing at the
11 touch of a button.

12

13 Of particular utility, alphanumeric caller id data received can textually identify a
14 calling party to aid in selection of a desired callback number and the included numeric
15 caller id information can be utilized to generate a dialing signal. In a number only caller
16 id transmission the number only will be supplied to the combined
17 pager/radiotelephone. In this case, the received numeric information can be
18 transferred to a comparing means and compared against a prestored directory in the
19 device. In this manner, the paged party can more easily identify the caller and return
20 the call more efficiently. US 4,924,496 issued to Figa describes one such method in
21 greater detail and has already been incorporated herein by reference.

22

23 PCMCIA PAGING RECEIVER EMBODIMENT

24

25 Another alternative embodiment using the claimed invention can be seen in US
26 5,043,721 issued to May which discloses a paging accessory using a PCMCIA
27 interface which is connected to a personal computer or integrated in a computing
28 device. This patent is incorporated herein by reference.

29

30 STORED VOICE PAGING RECEIVER AND SYSTEM EMBODIMENT

31

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1 The following discussion is specifically related to stored voice paging receivers
2 and paging systems.

3

4 In stored voice paging receivers it is possible to receive voice messages which
5 may be heard by a called party. In the prior art systems is shown a method in which
6 voice messages may be stored at a paging center from a calling party and then the
7 message may be transmitted to a paging receiver. These systems typically include
8 pager ID control data along with any voice message for playback through a codec unit
9 at the paging receiver. The codec converts the data received into an audio
10 reproduction of the calling parties voice message that may be heard from a speaker or
11 sound output device in the paging receiver.

12

13 Such devices are useful in that the called party may have a voice message
14 delivered to them rather than having to call in to a message center or voice mail
15 center.

16

17 However, in part, the popularity of such devices has been limited in that there is
18 no means for preventing other people to whom messages are not intended from
19 hearing voice messages of a personal or confidential nature if the message is
20 replayed by the recipient in their presence.

21

22 It is difficult for the called party to ascertain the identity of the calling party prior
23 to playing the message received to know who is calling prior to broadcasting the
24 message in the presence of others in the nearby area. To review a stored message
25 the user was required to press play and the voice message was annunciated from an
26 integrated speaker in a communication device. This was impractical for a called party
27 that was engaged in a meeting that wanted to discretely listen to an urgent message
28 without having to leave or have other persons hear the message. In addition the
29 previous stored voice paging receivers gave no visual indication of who was calling.

30

31 The previous stored voice paging receivers stored messages received based on the

1 time the messages were received. This required that the messages had to be
2 reviewed in the same order regardless of the possibility that an urgent message may
3 not be heard until the very end of message review. This was very inconvenient if the
4 message required a prompt reply from the called party. In US 5,153,579 issued to
5 Bennett et al. is described a method of fast forwarding through messages stored
6 chronologically. This method, though useful, requires a user to sequentially listen to
7 parts of all messages preceding a possible urgent message received.

8

9 In this invention is further shown a novel means in which voice messages
10 received may be selectively broadcast or heard confidentially based upon the caller
11 identifying data received.

12 The stored voice communication device and invention herein include a method of
13 selectively determining how voice messages are stored and annunciated using source
14 identifier information, a comparator in the communication device and called party
15 preferences for annunciation determined by a called party.

16

17 Another object is to provide a stored voice communication device which shows
18 a method of converting caller identifying information into audible speech signals for a
19 called party.

20

21 Another object is to provide an improved stored voice communication device
22 that includes a method of transmitting voice message data with source identifier
23 information.

24

25 Another improvement is to provide a more efficient method of fastforwarding
26 and reversing through messages received in such a device than in the prior art.

27

28 Such caller identifying data received may include textual data representative of
29 caller id data automatically supplied from the PSTN as described previously, or may
30 include some other textual data such as received from a DTMF entry by the caller at a
31 message center or paging center, an E-Mail message or document received with an

1 embedded or compressed voice message, or other data. For example, textual data
 2 representing the identity of the sending party could be represented by an E-mail
 3 address such as HASHIMOTOK@HCJ.COM. The message could be transmitted to a
 4 selective call receiver along with a voice message which was sent by a calling party's
 5 personal computer equipped with a sound board with appropriate software. In
 6 addition, the caller identifying information could be a particular iconographic
 7 representation of the calling party such as described in the Magic Cap software
 8 environment using so called Telescript technology available from General Magic and
 9 incorporated herein by reference, or a still video image of the calling party transmitted
 10 with the voice message by the calling party premises equipment.

11
 12 For example, visually displayable images transmitted after the message center
 13 device has gone offhook in response to a ringing signal could be received and stored
 14 with an associated voice message. One such implementation particularly adapted to
 15 simultaneous voice and visual data transmission that is currently being implemented is
 16 known as VoiceView. Incorporated herein by referenced and manufactured and
 17 licensed by Radish Communications Systems, Inc. out of Boulder, Colorado.
 18 VoiceView lets calling parties transmit visual images along with voice data in a
 19 standard POTS environment, which in the preferred embodiment could be captured
 20 and stored in a memory means at the message center for later transmission to a
 21 paging receiver or personal communication device. Alternatively, in an ISDN
 22 environment, simultaneous transmission of voice and image data could occur in a
 23 similar fashion such that message or caller identifying visual data could be stored
 24 along with a voice message for later transmission to a communication device.

25
 26 This information could be displayed on a display member upon receipt of the
 27 message at the stored voice communication device in advance of annunciating, or
 28 simultaneous with, annunciation of the voice message.

29
 30 Alternatively, the caller identifying information could be used to generate an
 31 audible alert means such as prestored sound data contained within the

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1 communication device and applied to a comparing means that corresponds to choices
2 made by the called party. Or received caller identifying data could be applied to a
3 text-to-speech generator contained within the paging receiver and annunciated to the
4 called party US Patent 4,975,693 issued to Davis et al. is incorporated herein by
5 reference.

6

7 Alternatively, the caller identifying data received at a paging center or message
8 center could be applied to a data generator which would compare the caller identifying
9 data received and generate predetermined character strings for transmission to a
10 communication device such as described in US 4,962,377 issued to Wallace et al. and
11 incorporated herein by reference.

12

13 Alternatively, the received textual data could be converted to a text to speech
14 converter at the paging center prior to transmission to the stored voice communication
15 device.

16

17 Upon receipt of a message at the communication device, only the caller
18 identifying data would be displayed or annunciated prior to annunciation of the voice
19 message after selection by the called party. In addition, such voice messages
20 received from certain parties could be marked as of a confidential nature by the calling
21 party so that a password would be required by the called party to hear the message.

22 In another preferred embodiment, the personal message center could comprise
23 a voice mail center, a personal computer or a conventional telephone answering
24 machine as previously described and well known in the art. In such systems, the
25 received caller id data could be used with a comparing means at the voice mail center.
26 personal computer or conventional telephone answering machine to selectively
27 transmit associated voice message data without the caller identifying data. Such a
28 feature is a substantial improvement over existing paging systems. This is a departure
29 over the prior art in that prior art voice message systems do not transmit voice data to
30 conventional stored voice paging receivers. One of the main advantages of such an
31 approach is that the cost of the stored voice paging receiver is reduced because there

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1 are no display means required in the voice paging receiver.

2

3 Alternatively, the called party could preselect which calling parties could require
4 a password upon receipt and prior to playback. Callers from a particular calling group
5 could be assigned with an automatic annunciation attribute in which any received calls
6 from this group would automatically be broadcast, no matter when the message was
7 received. See US Patent 5,073,767 issued to Holmes et al. and US Patent 5,146,217
8 issued to Holmes et al. which are incorporated herein by reference.

9

10 In one embodiment the stored voice communication device may receive all
11 voice messages and based upon the caller identifying data or password data also
12 received, may selectively broadcast through a speaker or playback only through a
13 sound output accessory such as an earphone, based upon the desired mode of
14 annunciation predetermined by the called party with annunciation mode instructions.
15 Such instructions could be as data associated with prestored caller identifying data
16 and the voice message, or by an annunciation mode switch that was connectable to a
17 comparing means.

18

19 If for example, a message received was determined to be of a private nature
20 not available for broadcast, the message could not be heard unless an earphone was
21 first attached to the communication device and the message was selected for
22 playback. Alternatively, the communication device could sense that the earphone was
23 attached and automatically playback the message through the earphone without any
24 further selection. See US Patent 5,075,684 issued to DeLuca and incorporated herein
25 by reference.

26

27 In addition, it may be useful for messages received and stored in the personal
28 communication device to be transferred for archival at a personal computer. Such a
29 personal communicator could be fitted with a serial, parallel, infrared or other
30 communication link and appropriate data transfer capability so that received messages
31 could be transferred to another device for speech to text transcription, archival voice

1 message storage or other functions.

2

3 The stored voice communications device includes a means for receiving
4 transmitted voice messages, receiver identifying control information, and source
5 identifier information such as caller id, ANI, synthesized caller id, DTMF, image, or the
6 like. Further the device may include a first audio output means such as an integrated
7 speaker, an optional second audio output means such as an earphone jack, a third
8 optional text to speech output means and a codec means to convert data received into
9 audible voice data. Further the device may include a selection and storage means for
10 prestorage called party annunciation selections, and a comparing means to match
11 caller identifying data received with the prestored called party annunciation
12 preferences.

13

14 A first switch means allows a received voice messages to be delivered using
15 the first audio output means by default, unless otherwise directed by prestored called
16 party preferences .

17

18 A second switch means allows received voice messages to be delivered using
19 the second output means by default, unless otherwise directed by prestored called
20 party preferences.

21

22 A third switch means allows received caller identifying data received to be
23 delivered to a text to speech conversion means, although it is recognized that such
24 data could also be applied to such a conversion means automatically by default rather
25 than based on the switching means. US Patent 4,742,516 issued to Yamaguchi shows
26 one method of text to speech translation and is incorporated herein by reference.
27 Another US Patent 4,716,583 issued to Groner shows another method of text to
28 speech translation and is also incorporated herein by reference.

29

30 The stored voice paging receiver also includes a selection and storage means
31 to allow a user to predetermine which corresponding source identifiers will utilize the

1 first audio output means, the second audio output means or the third text to speech
2 conversion means. In addition, based upon the caller identifying data received, the
3 communication device could determine which order voice messages would be stored
4 and accessed in a message storage means. For example, all the messages marked
5 urgent could be accessible first, or the messages could be retrievable based upon the
6 time sent, or based on the identity of the caller. All callers that were determined to be
7 family members may be prioritized differently than callers that were business contacts.

8

9 A password means in the communication device allows for preselection of a
10 password by the called communicant and entry of a password prior to annunciation of
11 messages determined to be from a calling party that may be of a private nature.

12

13 A comparator means in the stored voice communication device compares the
14 received and/or stored voice message source identifier with predetermined user
15 preferences and stores and delivers the received messages based on the
16 predetermined user preferences.

17

18 Further as previously described, the stored voice personal communicator could
19 also include a dial function in which the speaker or transducer used to annunciate
20 voice messages could also be used to acoustically couple the communicator and to
21 generate a dial signal as has been described hereinbefore. Audible DTMF signals
22 received at the stored voice paging receiver, or digital numeric data converted to
23 DTMF at the communicator could generate a dialing signal.

24

25 In Figure 1b is shown an improved stored voice paging receiver with a display
26 for caller identifying textual or image data and a text-to-speech unit for converting
27 textual data received into audible voice signals. Also the device may include a
28 coincidence detector to compare caller identifying data received with prestored data
29 records.

30

31 In the functional block diagram in Figure 1 the paging receiver 10 of the present

1 invention includes a receiving means 12, a decoding-controlling means 14, a memory
2 means 50, an audio amplifier 40, a sound output means 37, an input switch module
3 42, an energy conservation means 20, and a converting means 38. An antenna 24
4 receives paging information in the form of selective call signals, information comprised
5 of speech signals representative of a voice message and information comprised of
6 caller identification data for display or annunciation before, during or after annunciation
7 of the voice message. The antenna 24 is coupled to receiving means 12 that is
8 subject to the control of decoder 14. The decoder 14 not only controls receiving
9 means 12, but may also operate receiving means 12 on an intermittent basis to extend
10 the life of battery 16 through energy conservation means 20. The receiving means 12
11 detects the presence of electromagnetic energy representing the paging information
12 and applies the information to the converting means such as coder-decoder 38.
13 Operating under control from decoder 14 (line 45), the coder-decoder 38 converts the
14 received signals, such as an audio speech signal to a stream of binary bits and
15 reconverts the stored binary bits to a replica of the original received analog signal,
16 such as synthesized audio speech signals. A microcomputer 26 functions as the
17 decoder 14 and is comprised of a microprocessor 28 and a read only memory (ROM)
18 30. ROM 30 includes the necessary instructions to operate microprocessor 28 to
19 perform the functions as described below. The microcomputer 26 uses
20 microprocessor 28 as a software decoder for processing the received signals in real
21 time according to predetermined software routines. Such routines could provide for
22 detection of specific demarcation codes that distinguish audio or textual caller
23 identification data from audio voice messages for storage, annunciation and replay.

24

25 After the paging receiver is selectively identified, microprocessor 28 accesses
26 ROM 30 for determining the correct instructions contained in that memory for
27 processing the received signals, converting the analog voice signals to digital form,
28 storing the digital form of the voice signal, storing the caller identification data,
29 displaying the caller identification data on the display means 77 and other functions.
30 For example, text to speech synthesis means 75 can convert bit representations of
31 textual caller identification data received with voice data into synthesized voice signals

1 to be annunciated through audio amplifier 40 and sound output means 37 under the
2 direction of microprocessor 26 and input switch module 42. For example, upon
3 hearing a default alert signal from sound output means 37 indicating receipt of a
4 message, the subscriber could press "PLAY" 56 and the synthesized voice
5 annunciation of caller identification information would be retrieved from the memory
6 means and annunciated, such as "John Smith - 555-1212 called". Then upon a
7 second depression of the "PLAY" button, the stored voice message may be retrieved
8 from the memory means 50 and replayed for the subscriber. In another embodiment,
9 caller identification data received could be displayed on a display means 77 when a
10 message was received, or in response to scrolling through a list of messages
11 previously received and selected using key input selector 61, touch-screen input from
12 display means 77 or other keyboard selections and software as is known in the art.

13 Upon selection of a particular caller identifying record, the microcomputer 26
14 could retrieve the corresponding voice message from the memory means 50 for
15 annunciation. Additionally under the direction of the microcomputer 26, a coincidence
16 detector 76 could be employed to compare caller identifying data with prestored data
17 records in memory means 50. Upon determining a matching record, microcomputer
18 26 could cause caller identifying data and / or any associated record or annunciation
19 alert to be automatically displayed on display means 77 or annunciated using sound
20 output means 37. Additionally, key input module 42 could include a synthesize mode
21 key 78 in which textual data entered by keyboard 53, stored on memory means 50 or
22 received from receiving means 12 could be selectively converted from text-to-speech
23 for annunciation.

24

25 In the illustrated embodiment, the coder-decoder 38 (hereinafter referred to as
26 CODEC) provides for the digital-to-analog and analog-to-digital conversion of speech
27 signals. The CODEC 38, such as an adaptive delta modulator, converts or encodes
28 an audio input signal (line 44) to a digital data stream (line 46) for storage in memory
29 means 50, and reconverts or decodes a digital data stream (line 48) to reconstruct an
30 audio signal (line 21). Under control of decoder 14, the CODEC's digital output is
31 stored in memory 50 and retrieved on line 48 to reconstruct a synthesized audio signal

1 on line 21, thus closely replicating the real time audio signal in both amplitude and
2 frequency. One example of such a coder-decoder is disclosed by N.S. Jayant in the
3 publication "Adaptive Delta Modulation with a One-Bit Memory", Bell System Technical
4 Journal, Vol. 49, No. 2, Mar. 1970. To conserve power, most of the CODEC 38 is
5 turned off when there are no read/write operations to the memory. The receiving
6 means 12 is further coupled by line 23 to an audio amplifier 40. Operating in response
7 to decoder 14, the real time audio signal on line 23 is applied to audio amplifier 40
8 which supplies the analog signals to sound output means 37. In particular, decoder
9 14 controls audio amplifier 40 via line 62 to apply either the real time audio signal on
10 line 23 or the synthesized audio signal on line 21 to sound output means 37.

11

12 Decoder 14 is coupled to memory means 50 which serves to include
13 information for decoding the received information and for storing information received
14 from CODEC 38. The CODEC 38 provides the analog-to-digital conversion in memory
15 50 as digital voice messages. In this embodiment each digital voice message is
16 stored in conjunction with associated caller identifying data. As previously described,
17 such data could be textual, synthesized audio or graphical data. This associated
18 caller identifying data can be used to selectively access voice message records before
19 selecting a particular voice record for replay. A plurality of digital voice messages can
20 be stored in memory 50. The decoder 14 functions to alert the paging user, and to
21 store, recall, and playback voice messages, as well as to store, recall, and playback
22 caller identification data.

23

24 The paging receiver of Figure 1 has a capacity of storing voice messages and
25 providing them to audio amplifier 40 according to the state of a plurality of inputs, such
26 as the state of the control switches of input module 42, the state of annunciation
27 instructions ascertained by coincidence detector 76 and prestored data records
28 contained in memory means 77, and particular encoded annunciation instructions
29 received by receiving means 12 that comprise part of the message data.

30

31 A switch interface 18 provides input capability for control switches 54-78 and

1 keyboard 53. Display means 77 also may employ a switch interface means to allow
 2 for touch screen selection for data input, menu selection and the like. Illustratively,
 3 control switch 54 is an on/off switch for controlling power from battery 16. Control
 4 switch 56 is a play switch for playing back voice messages previously digitized and
 5 stored in memory 50. Control switch is a reset switch to reset the paging receiver
 6 system and to monitor any real time audio signals currently being received. Control
 7 switch 60 is a mode switch for operating the decoder in one of three modes. These
 8 modes are the silent, push to listen (PTL) and normal modes.

9
 10 The battery 16 is shown connected to decoder 14 through switch interface 18.
 11 Battery 16 provides power to decoder 14 through an energy conservation means 20,
 12 such as a DC to DC converter. Decoder 14 is additionally connected to a code
 13 memory 22 which stores predetermined address information to which the paging
 14 receiver is responsive. Code memory 50 can also store such information as the
 15 sampling rate for digitizing the received audio messages. Output 62 from decoder 14
 16 controls whether real time audio signals on line 23 from receiving means 12 or
 17 synthesized audio signals on line 21 from CODEC 38 are applied to audio speaker 37.
 18 Communication between receiving means 12 and decoder 14 is achieved via line 47.
 19 Selective call signals for the decoder 14 are received by receiving means 12 and
 20 passed to decoder 14 through line 47.

21
 22 The operation of the paging receiver shown in Figure 1b is such that the
 23 receiving means 12 is capable of receiving messages in any of several message
 24 formats through antenna 24. The decoder 14 responds to the received signals to
 25 analyze the data and select one of several decoding schemes for appropriately
 26 decoding the incoming information received by receiving means 12. As is well known
 27 with paging devices, the resulting decoded signal is tested for comparison with a
 28 designated pager address contained in code memory 22. On detecting
 29 correspondence between the received and decoded signal and the address in code
 30 memory 22, the decoder 14 instructs the CODEC 38 to digitize the real time analog
 31 voice signals that follows for storage in one memory 50. The inventions described

1 herein are not specifically limited to analog systems but could also be adapted to a
2 digital stored voice paging system in which voice or image data was transmitted in a
3 compressed or uncompressed format. An alert output signal may be produced by
4 the decoder 14 to generate an alert indication to the pager user that a message has
5 been received and stored. In particular, the alert output signal from the decoder 14 is
6 supplied to audio amplifier 40 to produce an audible signal from the sound output
7 means 37 indicative of receipt of a message. Alternatively the decoder 14 can supply
8 alert signals or data to audio amplifier 40 and sound output means 37 and/or display
9 means 77 in response to alert output instructions contained in prestored data records
10 in the memory means 50 used in conjunction with coincidence detector 76, or in
11 response to alert instructions or caller identifying data received as part of the message
12 from receiving means 12 via line 47.

13

14 If the user responds to the message alert, the user has the ability to hear the
15 message in real time, depending upon the position of mode switch 60, or has the
16 ability to hear only the associated caller identifying data until the play key 56 is
17 depressed again. In another alternative embodiment, calls received which are
18 determined to be confidential by the coincidence detector 76 and memory means
19 comparing against the received caller identifying data can be inhibited from playback
20 until such time as a personal identification code is entered by the user using the
21 keyboard 53 or display means 77 for example. In another embodiment, the message
22 received could include a code with the message data that creates a confidential
23 condition such that a personal identification code must be entered before the particular
24 message can be annunciated. Alternatively, the user could require all messages
25 received to require entry of a personal identification code. Such security features are
26 particularly useful in case the user wishes to prevent other persons in the immediate
27 vicinity from inadvertently hearing confidential messages, or in the case where the
28 paging receiver is lost.

29

30 If the mode switch is in the normal mode, upon receipt of a voice message, the
31 user hears an alert followed by the voice message. Simultaneously, the message is

1 DTMF entries are manually entered in conjunction with a voice message for
 2 transmission to an autodialing type paging receiver. The DTMF tones can be
 3 annunciated as voice representations of DTMF digits received. For example, if the
 4 DTMF tone detector receives the dual tone frequencies of 1209 Hz and 697 Hz then
 5 the text to speech generator will receive instructions from the tone decoder and the
 6 synthesized voice annunciation "ONE" will be heard. Different corresponding synthetic
 7 voice messages can be stored in ROM in the text to speech generator for each of the
 8 various DTMF tone combinations and generated in response to a depression of the
 9 "SPEAK" button or automatically generated in response to receipt of a message when
 10 decoded by the DTMF tone decoder. The DTMF signals received may be stored in a
 11 memory as DTMF audio signals for playback through a sound signal generator and
 12 speaker or may be converted to digital representations of the DTMF signals for
 13 application to a DTMF generator (not shown) for later redial.

14

15 In one preferred embodiment, textual caller identifying data such as name and
 16 telephone number information is received by the receiving means along with any
 17 associated voice message in a stored voice paging receiver. The microprocessor can
 18 apply the received caller id data to a text to speech unit and display means for
 19 annunciation and display. Each subsequent message received can be stored in a
 20 memory means contained in a detachable memory as described in Figure 5a. The
 21 detachable memory means may be a PCMCIA memory card that may allow transfer of
 22 voice messages received from a voice mail center for subsequent archiving in a
 23 personal computer or the like.

24

25 The stored voice paging receiver can also have a detachable keyboard or other
 26 input means to allow for entry of memory records that can be used by a coincidence
 27 detector within the pager, as in a copending application. Upon receipt of caller
 28 identifying data, the coincidence detector can compare the caller identifying data
 29 against prestored memory records to annunciate or display associated caller
 30 identifying data prior to annunciation of the voice message received.

31

1 In Figure 3a is shown the prior art method of receiving and transmitting a voice
2 message to a stored voice paging receiver. In Figure 3b is shown an improvement
3 over the prior art method in which caller identifying data is received, stored and
4 associated with a voice message for transmittal to a stored voice paging receiver

5

6 In Figures 4a through 4e are shown various alternative embodiments in which
7 caller id data can be utilized within a stored voice paging receiver

8

9 For example, in Figure 4a when a stored voice paging receiver receives a
10 message, a coincidence detector can generate a prestored audio alert. First, the
11 called party enters textual data and a corresponding audio announcement into the
12 pager in advance. In this case, the number 555-1212 could be entered by a data
13 entry means into the pager, and a voice entry such as "home office" could be spoken
14 into a sound input accessory, for storage in the pager memory. If the caller id data
15 such as 555-1212 were received, a coincidence detector would determine a match
16 with the previously entered number and the previously entered audio alert "home
17 office" would be heard by the called party. Upon depression of a play key, the voice
18 message could be heard. "unknown caller", the caller id data could be displayed and
19 upon depression of a play button, the voice message could then be heard.

20

21 In Figure 4b is shown another alternative embodiment in which a voice pager
22 allows a called party to associate certain pin numbers with calling parties. For
23 example, some callers may typically be of a personal or confidential nature. The
24 playback of messages from these callers may require entry of a PIN code prior to
25 annunciation of any message. In this case, a coincidence detector could be
26 employed which analyzes caller id data received and compares against a prestored
27 caller list. When a match is determined, particular caller messages would not be
28 heard until the proper PIN code was entered by the calling party. When the correct
29 code was entered, the caller id data could be annunciated or displayed until such time
30 as the play key was depressed. Of course, the caller id data could be inhibited from
31 display or annunciation until such time as the proper pin code was entered by the

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1 called party. In this case then, a default alert signal could be generated in response to
2 receipt of a message that did not indicate the identity of the calling party until the pin
3 code was entered properly. Alternatively, the prompt for the pin code entry could be
4 generated by the pager after the receipt, display and annunciation of caller id data but
5 prior to annunciation of the voice message from the calling party.

6

7 In Figure 4c is shown another alternative embodiment in which a voice pager
8 receives DTMF audio signals along with a voice message. The voice pager could
9 distinguish DTMF signals from the voice message data by use of a DTMF tone
10 decoder means within the pager. The DTMF tone decoder could generate a
11 corresponding textual or synthesized voice alert corresponding to the caller id of the
12 calling party. In addition, the decoded DTMF signals could be employed with a
13 coincidence detector to display or annunciate previously stored matching data records
14 as previously described in Figure 4a. Further, the received audio DTMF signals
15 received could be used in place of a more conventional DTMF generator to generate a
16 corresponding dialing signal for call back to the calling party.

17

18 In Figure 4d is shown another alternative embodiment in which a voice pager
19 can utilize a text-to-speech unit within the pager to annunciate textual caller identifying
20 data received.

21

22 In Figure 4e is shown another alternative embodiment in which a stored voice
23 pager can operate in one of three different modes: Announce mode in which a
24 coincidence detector is employed against all caller id data received automatically upon
25 receipt; silent mode in which a coincidence detector is employed against all caller id
26 data received only upon depression of a play key; and a broadcast mode in which
27 caller id data is displayed and/or annunciated and the voice data is annunciated
28 automatically, without use of any coincidence detector. For example upon receipt of a
29 message when in the announce mode, a coincidence detector could be employed
30 before an alert signal was generated. Upon detection or non detection of a matching
31 record, the appropriate alert signal would be generated and the unit would play the

1 associated voice message upon depression of the play key. Upon receipt of a
2 message when in silent mode, the caller id data could be displayed but not
3 annunciated. When the called party scrolled through the messages received by
4 viewing the display of various caller id data associated with voice messages, he could
5 then press a play key and the coincidence detector could generate an appropriate
6 alert signal. If the play key was depressed again, the voice message could be heard
7 by the called party. Alternatively, a single depression of the play key could cause the
8 annunciation of the caller id data and subsequent annunciation of the voice message.
9 If the pager were in broadcast mode, the caller id data could be displayed and the
10 voice message received would be broadcast to be heard by the called party.

11

12 In Figure 5a, caller identifying data such as name and number data, particular
13 voice or sound data for message alerting, pin code data, iconographic data such as
14 logos or meaningful graphic images, photo images of a calling party or other data is
15 stored in a memory means that is integral to or detachable from the paging receiver.
16 This data could be transferred from a PCMCIA memory card attached to the pager, or
17 an integrated memory within the pager that received data from an input means such
18 as an infrared, serial or parallel connection with another device, or a data input means
19 integrated in the pager such as a touch screen, sound input accessory, keyboard, or
20 some other means.

21

22 In Figure 5b is shown one embodiment of a display member (8) within a stored
23 voice paging receiver (7) in which caller identifying information can be scrolled through
24 prior to selecting a particular message for annunciation. Such a display could be of
25 the type known as a touch screen which allowed also for programming of softkeys for
26 various functions to be performed such as scrolling, data entry, message selection and
27 the like as for example in . The particular urgency of a message received could be
28 indicated on such a display by a flashing iconographic indicator (1), the caller id name
29 and number data (4) could be displayed, the duration of the voice message received
30 could be shown (3) and the time the message was received could be displayed (2). In
31 such cases where blocked caller id indicators were received, default message such as

1 "blocked" (6) or "unknown" could be displayed.

2

3 In Figure 5c is shown a caller id memory address register in which caller id data
4 associated with voice messages received can be stored for later recall and display in a
5 stored voice pager. This memory for the caller id data could be contiguous or
6 separate from the memory used for the voice messages received and could be
7 applied to a display as described previously. The voice message stored in memory
8 can be annunciated after selection of a displayed caller identifying record by the called
9 party.

10

11 Additional art incorporated herein by reference includes the following:

12

13 Brother Intellifax 780 MC Owners manual

14

15 Figure 11 provides a simplified block diagram of a telephone network, in
16 accordance with the prior art, which will be utilized to describe some fundamentals of
17 telephony which may be necessary to understand the present invention. As is shown,
18 telephone network 9 can be utilized to allow call-originator 11 to utilize telephone 13 to
19 place a telephone call to call-receiver 15, which utilizes telephone 17 to receive such a
20 call. Fairly elaborate switching networks 19 and 21 connect call-originator 11 and call-
21 originator 15 to central office 23 of telephone network 9.

22

23 In central office 23, there is a source of electrical current, identified as talk
24 battery 25, which is utilized to determine whether or not a particular telephone (i.e.,
25 telephone 13 or 15) is in the "on-hook" or "off-hook" condition. If the handset of a
26 particular telephone is lifted from the cradle of the telephone, the telephone goes from
27 an on-hook condition to an off-hook condition. When a particular telephone is in an
28 off-hook condition, dial tone generator 27 at central office 23 of telephone network 9 is
29 utilized to generate an audible dial tone which indicates to the telephone operator that
30 an outgoing call may be initiated. For example, call-originator 11 may lift the handset
31 from the cradle of telephone 13, and receive an audible dial tone through the

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1 operation of dial tone generator 27 and central office 23.

2

3 After call-originator 11 dials the telephone number of call-receiver 15, ring
4 generator 29 at central office 23 generates a plurality of ring signals which are sent
5 through switching network 21 to telephone 17 to alert call-receiver 15 that a call is
6 incoming. Once call-receiver 15 lifts his or her handset off of the cradle of telephone
7 17, voice path 31 is established between call-originator 11 and call-receiver 15.

8

9 In accordance with current Bell standards, caller-identification information may
10 be transmitted, automatically, between call-originator 11 and call-receiver 15, through
11 telephone network 9, in a manner which will be described below with reference to
12 **Figures 12a, 12b, and 12c.** In the United States of America, in accordance with the
13 Bellcore Specification No. 220, the transmission must occur between the first and
14 second rings. In Figure 12a, such caller-identification information signals transmitted
15 to call-receiver 15 are depicted in simplified form, with caller-identification information
16 39 occurring between first ring 35 and second ring 37. The Bellcore Specification
17 requires that caller-identification information 39 occur at least 500 milliseconds after
18 first ring 35 ceases. Thus, the signal which represents the caller-identification
19 information will begin transmission one-half of one second, or longer, after the
20 termination of first ring 35. Caller-identification information 39 is transmitted serially,
21 utilizing a frequency-shift-keying technique, which is well known in the prior art.

22

23 The Bellcore Specification also requires that the transmission of caller-
24 identification information 39 end at least 427 milliseconds prior to the commencement
25 of second ring 37. Typically, there is a four second interval between first ring 35 and
26 second ring 37, so a significant amount of time is available for the communication of
27 caller-identification information. Altogether, there is available a period of 2,570
28 milliseconds for the transmission of caller-identification information, not including
29 pauses required by the Bellcore Specification (such pauses or periods of silence are
30 required at the beginning and end of the message). At 1,200 baud, this message
31 interval is sufficient to transmit 3,084 bits, or 308 bytes.

1
2 The blocks of data which make-up the caller-identification information 39 is set
3 forth in block diagram form in Figure 12b. The first component of the caller-
4 identification information is a synchronization signal 41 which comprises a channel
5 seizure signal having a duration of 250 milliseconds of frequency-shift-keying
6 encoding of a bit pattern of alternating zeros and ones. Such a synchronization signal
7 is utilized to provide a recognizable pattern to alert applicable caller-identification
8 decoding equipment that caller-identification information follows. Pre-message pause
9 43 follows synchronization signal 41, and has a duration of 150 milliseconds, plus or
10 minus 25 milliseconds. The purpose of such a pre-message pause 43 is to condition
11 the receiver for the data which follows.

12
13 Next, message-type identifier 45 follows synchronization signal 41. Message
14 type identifier 45 is typically one byte of data which identifies the type of caller-
15 identification message which is being sent. There are two basic types of caller-
16 identification messages, including: (1) only numeric data, which identifies the
17 telephone number for the source of the telephone call; and (2) numeric data, which
18 identifies a telephone number for the source of the telephone call, along with
19 hexadecimal representation of alphabetic characters that contain the directory name
20 associated with the telephone number of the source telephone. In accordance with
21 the Bellcore Standard, 04 hexadecimal identifies a single message caller-identification
22 message, while 80 hexadecimal identifies a caller-identification message which
23 includes both a telephone number and a name.

24
25 Next, message byte count 47 provides an indication of the total length of the
26 caller-identification information. This is important because the directory name
27 associated with the source telephone number will have a different length for each
28 particular name.

29
30 Thereafter, sub-message type 49 identifies the type of submessage which is
31 transmitted with the caller-identification information. Sub-message link 51 identifies

1 the length of the sub-message which follows.

2

3 Message 53 consists of information which is described in more detail below
4 with respect to Figure 12c. Message 53 is followed by checksum byte 55 which, in
5 accordance with the prior art techniques, provides a checksum total to ensure that
6 data received has not been lost or altered in any way during the transmission. The
7 receiving unit of a caller-identification decoder generates a checksum in response to
8 the entire caller-identification bit stream, and thereafter compares this checksum with
9 checksum byte 55. If these checksums match, then no bits were lost in the
10 transmission; however, if the checksum generated by the caller-identification decoder
11 does not match checksum byte 55 received at the decoder, then one or more data bits
12 may have been lost in the transmission, and the information may be unreliable or
13 unusable.

14

15 The final component of a caller-identification message is post-message pause
16 57, which is a quiescent period prior to second ring 37 of Figure 12a.

17

18 With reference now to Figure 12c, message 53 will be described in greater
19 detail. The first eight bits of the message include month bits "MM", day bits "DD", hour
20 bits "HH", and minute bits "MM". These eight bits provide the month and date, along
21 with the hour and minute, in military time, of the telephone call. Note that no
22 information is provided regarding the year.

23

24 The next portion of message 53 is either (1) a ten digit telephone number, or (2)
25 a single digit which identifies that caller-identification information is either (a) not
26 available, or (b) has been blocked to maintain the caller's privacy.

27

28 If caller-identification information is not available, the ASCII character "0" is
29 transmitted. If the caller-identification information has been blocked for reasons of
30 privacy, the character P is transmitted. However, if the caller-identification information
31 is neither unavailable nor blocked, then a ten digit bit stream follows. The first three

1 bits, "AAA" identify the area code; the next three bits, "PPP", identifying the prefix;
 2 and the final four bits, "EEEE", identify the exchange. For example, if the source
 3 phone number is 702-731-1113, then AAA = 702, PPP = 731, and EEEE = 1113.

4
 5 The next portion of message 53 is caller-identification information which
 6 identifies the name associated with the particular preceding telephone number. If this
 7 information is unavailable, a single character "0" is provided. If this information is
 8 blocked for reasons of privacy, a single character "P" is provided. However, if this
 9 information is both available and not blocked, a multi-bit string follows which sets forth
 10 a name associated with the particular preceding telephone number (for example,
 11 "John Doe").

12
 13 Therefore, considered broadly, caller-identification information may be solely
 14 data which identifies a telephone number associated with the telephone unit utilized to
 15 place a call, or the telephone number associated with the telephone unit utilized to
 16 place the call in combination with alphabetic characters identifying a name associated
 17 with that particular number in a telephone directory (i.e., a telephone director data
 18 base). In either event, whether the directory name is provided or not, this information
 19 can be considered to be the "caller-identification information." The particular details of
 20 the caller-identification standards in the United State of America are set forth in the
 21 publications of the Bell Communications Research Laboratories, which are identified
 22 as "Bellcore", and include (1) Technical Reference No. TR-TSY-00032, issued
 23 November 1, 1986, and entitled "CLASS(sm) Feature: Bulk Calling Line Information";
 24 (2) Technical Reference No. TR-TSY-000030, issued January 1, 1990, entitled
 25 "CLASS(sm) Feature: Calling Number Delivery"; and (3) Technical Reference No.
 26 TANWT-001188, issued March 1, 1991, entitled "CLASS(sm) Calling Name Delivery
 27 and Related Features Generic Requirements"; all of which are incorporated herewith
 28 by reference as if fully set forth.

29
 30 Figure 13 depicts one embodiment of the present invention wherein numeric
 31 paging network 61 is utilized to receive caller-identification information via interaction

1 with telephone network 9 in response to call-originator 11 communicating through
 2 telephone network 9 with central office 59 of numeric paging network 61. In this
 3 configuration, numeric paging network 61 may be utilized to transmit the numeric
 4 portions of caller-identification information, and not the alphanumeric portions. Figure
 5 13 includes telephone network 9, which includes components identical to those
 6 discussed above in connection with Figure 11, with the only difference being that a
 7 page request telephone call is received by call receiver 15, which is located within
 8 numeric paging network central office 59. Between the first and second rings received
 9 by call receiver 15, the caller-identification information is routed through telephone 17
 10 to decoder 63.

11
 12 Decoder 63 comprises a conventional caller-identification decoder capable of
 13 receiving the frequency-shift-keyed caller-identification signal, and decoding it into a bit
 14 stream representative of the information described above in connection with Figures
 15 12b and 12c. The portion of information corresponding to the telephone number of
 16 particular telephone 13 being utilized by call originator 11 is provided as an input to
 17 decoder 63. Additionally, telephone 17 is utilized to receive any optional numeric
 18 message which is input by call-originator 11 and transmitted over voice path 31 during
 19 the time interval provided.

20
 21 The decoded numeric information which corresponds to the telephone number
 22 of the telephone utilized by call-originator 11, and any numeric message input by call-
 23 originator 11, are assembled in message buffer 65, which pushes the serial bit stream
 24 to transmitter 67 in accordance with a predefined protocol. The present invention may
 25 utilize the predefined communication protocol identified as the Post Office Code
 26 Standardization Advisory Group (POCSAG) code. Such a code comports with the
 27 formats provided by the International Committee CCIR, which has standardized
 28 message coding for radio frequency transmissions. Both the POCSAG code and
 29 CCIR standards are well known by those skilled in the art, and both are incorporated
 30 herein by reference as if fully set forth, but are not essential to the main concepts of
 31 the present invention.

1
2 Transmitter 67 provides a radio frequency communication link 69 which
3 communicates information from numeric paging network central office 59 to personal
4 communication device 71. Personal communications device 61 may be a receive-only
5 device, such as a paging device, or a more sophisticated bi-directional communication
6 device, such as a personal communication device or personal digital assistant, such
7 as the personal digital assistant sold under the trademark "Mackintosh Newton" by
8 Apple Computer, or the product sold by AT&T under the trademark "EO". Preferably,
9 personal communication device 71 at least includes display 73, which is utilized to
10 display information based, at least in-part, upon information contained within a
11 database resident within personal communication device 71, or in-part upon
12 information transmitted over radio frequency communication link 69 from central office
13 59 of numeric paging network 61.

14
15 Figure 14 provides a block diagram representation of another embodiment of
16 the present invention wherein alphanumeric paging network 75 is utilized to receive
17 caller-identification information. Such caller-identification information which may be
18 received includes numeric information corresponding to the telephone number of
19 telephone 13 utilized by call originator 11 to engage alphanumeric paging network 75,
20 and alphanumeric text which identifies the "entity" listed in a telephone directory (i.e., a
21 database) as the owner of the particular telephone number assigned to telephone 13.
22 Call-receiver 15 receives the incoming call through switching network 21 on behalf of
23 alphanumeric paging network 75. Call-receiver 15 is located within alphanumeric
24 paging network central office 77.

25
26 The caller-identification information is routed from telephone 17 to decoder 79,
27 where it is converted from the frequency-shift-key format transmitted within telephone
28 network 9, to an acceptable binary or hexadecimal format. Such decoded caller-
29 identification information includes numeric caller-identification information which
30 corresponds to telephone 13 utilized by call-originator 11 to engage alphanumeric
31 paging network 75, as well as alphanumeric textual information which identifies the

1 "entity", as listed within the telephone directory database, which has ownership of that
2 particular telephone number, along with other additional formatting information which
3 was described above in connection with Figures 12a, 12b, and 12c.

4

5 This decoded caller-identification information is pushed from decoder 79 to
6 message buffer 81, and may also be provided to automated checking routine 83.
7 Automated checking routine 83 receives caller-identification information and
8 formulates a textual or synthesized voice query, which may then be utilized to
9 communicate with call-originator 11 to verify the telephone number for telephone 13
10 (which was derived from the caller-identification information) as well as the "entity"
11 identity (which was also derived from the caller-identification information). The query
12 may include the following questions:

13

14 (1) The caller-identification information provided to us through the telephone
15 network indicates that the telephone number from which you are placing this call is
16 AAA-PPP-EEEE; please depress your telephone key pad number "1" if this
17 information is correct, or depress telephone key pad "2" if this information is incorrect.

18

19 (2) Your previous response has indicated to us that the telephone number
20 provided through the caller-identification is incorrect. Please enter your correct
21 telephone number at this time beginning with the area code.

22

23 (3) The caller-identification information provided to us through the telephone
24 network indicates that this telephone number is assigned to "NNNNNNNN"; please
25 depress "1" if this information is correct. If this information is not correct, please hold
26 for an operator.

27

28 (4) Please stand by for an operator if you desire to leave a detailed
29 message; otherwise, please hang-up and your page will be directed to the intended
30 recipient which you should now identify by depressing the keys on your telephone key
31 pad, with the area code being entered first.

1

2 (5) If no detailed message is desired, hang-up and your page will be
3 directed to area code "AAA", telephone number "PPP-EEEE". Thank you.

4

5 After this automated verification of the caller-identification number occurs,
6 human operator 85 may be made available to call-originator 11 to take a detailed
7 alphanumeric textual message. Human operator 85 keys a particular message into
8 message buffer 81 prior to transmission of the message by transmitter 87, via radio
9 frequency communication link 89, to remotely located personal communication
10 91 which includes display 93. Upon receipt of the page, personal communication
11 device 91 generates information for display in display 93 based at least in part on at
12 least one of: (1) information communicated via radio frequency communication link
13 89; or (2) information contained within a database maintained within personal
14 communication device 91.

15

16 While Figures 13 and 14 have been described with reference to a numeric
17 paging network and an alphanumeric paging network, the present invention may be
18 utilized with an alphanumeric paging network which allows for communication of a
19 variety of page-originator generated messages, in a variety of formats. Such
20 messages may be provided to the portable personal communication device in a
21 variety of formats, including:

22

23 (1) textual information which include either numeric only, or alphanumeric
24 data;

25

26 (2) digitized voice or audio information which may be communicated in
27 analog form through the telephone network to the central office of the alphanumeric
28 paging network, where the information is then digitized, and transmitted in a digital
29 format which, upon reception, may be reconstructed to define an analog voice or
30 audio signal which drives an audio output device resident in the personal
31 communication device; or

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1

2 (3) digitized image information, such as a video image or an iconographic
3 representation of information, which may be transmitted over the voice channel of the
4 telephone network and received at the central office of the alphanumeric paging
5 network, where it is then digitized, and transmitted to the remotely located personal
6 communication device, where the digital information is reconstructed into an image
7 which may be displayed on a display resident in the personal communication device.

8 Given this variety of message-format inputs, the personal communication
9 device can provide an equally impressive array of display options. Textual input
10 (including numeric and alphanumeric characters) can be displayed in a conventional
11 manner on a simple and relatively inexpensive alphanumeric LCD display.
12 Additionally, text which is provided as input to the personal communication device via
13 the radio frequency communication link, may be utilized with a voice synthesizer to
14 provide synthesized voice as an output from an audio output device resident in, or
15 coupled to, the personal communication device.

16

17 Alternatively, an alphanumeric or numeric input supplied to the personal
18 communication device may be utilized to recall one of a plurality of prestored audio
19 output messages. For example, a table may be provided which identifies particular
20 alphanumeric codes as corresponding to particular audio output messages. The
21 binary characters "1111" may correspond to the audio output message "phone home
22 now". Alternatively, a different code, such as "001," may correspond to the audio
23 output message "phone your office now". The prerecorded and predetermined audio
24 output messages may define a plurality of messages which alert the page-receiving
25 communicant that a page has been received from a particular source, and indicating a
26 particular urgency or requesting a level of diligence in response thereto.

27

28 Of course, as another option, digitized audio or voice data may be reconstituted
29 into analog format to provide an audio output corresponding almost directly to the
30 audio input provided by the page-originating communicant over the telephone lines to
31 the central office of the paging network.

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1

2 Digitized images may also be transmitted to the personal communication
3 device in this manner for display on a more elaborate display, such as a personal
4 computer-type display. Finally, digitized audio may be provided as an input to the
5 personal communication device, which, in turn, may be utilized to generate a
6 combination of signals, which may include an audible signal, or a preselected image,
7 such as an icon, which may be placed on the display.

8

9 Figure 15 provides one example of the utilization of a numeric message code,
10 which is input at the personal communication device, to generate a textual message
11 which provides, to the page-receiving communicant, information which allows him or
12 her to respond in an appropriate manner to the page. As is shown in Figure 15, the
13 message code number column on the left corresponds to a textual message code on
14 the right. Receipt of the "**1" message code results in the display of the message "call
15 when you return" on the personal communication device. The receipt of the message
16 code "**2" results in the display of the textual message "voice mail received" on the
17 personal communication device. Receipt of the "**3" message code results in the
18 display of the textual message "fax mail received" on the personal communication
19 device. Receipt of the "**4" message code results in the display of the textual message
20 "electronic mail received" on the personal communication device. Receipt of the "**5"
21 message code at the personal communication device results in the display of the
22 textual message "image data received". Receipt of the "**6" message code results in
23 the display of the textual message "other data received" on the personal
24 communication device. Finally, receipt of the "**911" message code at the personal
25 communication device results in the display of the textual message "call immediately".

26

27 Of course, other various preselected and predefined textual messages are
28 possible. To facilitate the use of this system, the paging network may provide a
29 synthesized-voice and keypad driven exchange between the call-originating
30 communicant and the central office of the paging network. Such an interface may be
31 utilized until the various page-originating communicants learn one or more of the most

1 useful message codes. After such message codes are learned, a user may thereafter
 2 bypass the synthesized-voice menu. Preferably, the information provided to the page-
 3 receiving communicant is stored in memory within the personal communication device
 4 for review at a later time. Typically, the personal communication device includes
 5 memory buffers sufficient to hold a selected number of messages received via the
 6 paging network, and other corresponding data.

7
 8 Figure 16 provides a view of one way in which the data received from the
 9 page-originating communicant may be organized. Such organized data may be stored
 10 at either the central office of the paging network or within the memory allocated for
 11 such purpose within the personal communication device. As illustrated, a plurality of
 12 locations are provided for storing caller-identification information (i.e., locations in the
 13 first column), DTMF data which may be entered by the page-originating communicant
 14 by utilizing the telephone handset (the second column), and caller message data
 15 which may be provided by the page-originating communicant through utilization of a
 16 variety of massaging techniques, but in this example, an alphanumeric massaging
 17 technique, such as that discussed above with respect to Figure 15.

18
 19 Figures 17, 18, 19a, 19b, and 19c provide views of three alternative physical
 20 configurations for the personal communication device in accordance with the present
 21 invention. Personal communication device 101 of Figure 17 allows for two-way
 22 communication with the paging network. Personal communication device 101
 23 includes display 103, which is preferably a display of the type utilized in portable
 24 personal computers, such as notebook computers. Display 103 may be utilized to
 25 display information, such as caller-identification information 105. Caller-identification
 26 information 105 may include an alphabetic identification of the name associated with
 27 the telephone number transmitted with the caller-identification information, or may
 28 include optional message 107 input by the page-originating communicant during the
 29 request for a page via the telephone network.

30
 31 As is shown, other information 109, such as an address associated with the

1 page-initiating communicant 105, may be retrieved from a database in the memory of
2 the personal communication device and displayed along with the caller-identification
3 information on display 103.

4
5 Personal communication device 101 of Figure 17 also includes keyboard 111
6 and graphical pointing device 113, such as a touch pen, which may be utilized to
7 select icons, menu buttons, or other items displayed in a graphical user interface.
8 Preferably, personal communication device 101 allows two-way communication, and
9 includes a cellular link to the telephone network and/or paging network. Additionally,
10 data card 115 may be provided to load personal communication device 101 with a
11 preconfigured database containing information pertaining to parties with which
12 frequent communication may occur.

13
14 Figure 18 provides a view of an alternative personal communication device
15 117, which allows only one-way communication; personal communication device 117
16 may receive information from the paging network, but may not directly originate an
17 outgoing communication with the telephone network, or with the paging network. As is
18 shown, personal communication device 117 includes display 119, which may display
19 identification 121 of the page-originating communicant, along with his or her address.
20 Telephone field 123 is also provided for displaying a telephone number at which the
21 page-originating communicant may be reached. Furthermore, short message 125
22 may be provided to indicate either (1) the type of information which has been received
23 at the paging network, or (2) the degree of urgency attached to the particular
24 information received.

25
26 Data card 127 may be utilized to load personal communication device 117 with
27 additional database information. In the preferred embodiment of the present
28 invention, the information displayed in display 119 is based at least in-part upon caller-
29 identification information, and at least in-part upon information recalled from the
30 database resident in the memory of personal communication device 117 or within data
31 card 127. As is shown in Figure 18, keyboard 129 is provided to allow the page-

1 receiving communicant a means to enter or manipulate data within the database.

2

3 A third, and still different, embodiment of the present invention is depicted in
4 **Figures 19a, 19b, and 19c.** Figure 19a provides a view of the bottom portion of
5 personal communication device 131. Note that audio output device 133 is provided.
6 Mechanical coupler 135 provides a means for acoustically coupling personal
7 communication device 131 to any telephone equipment, particularly the mouthpiece of
8 a telephone handset, against which audio output device 133 is disposed.

9

10 Figure 19b provides a side view of personal communication device 131 of
11 Figure 19a. Note that power switch 137 is provided to switch the power to personal
12 communication device 131 off and on.

13

14 Figure 19c provides a view of the top portion of personal communication
15 device 131. Display 139 is provided to receive and display numeric data,
16 alphanumeric data, and images. A plurality of icons 141 are provided about display
17 139, each of which is dedicated for the communication of particular information. For
18 example, icon 143 is representative of a clock, and may be utilized to indicate to the
19 page-receiving communicant that time-sensitive information has been communicated
20 to the paging network. For an alternative example, icon 145, which depicts a
21 telephone, is provided to indicate to the page-receiving communicant that a telephone
22 message has been received by the paging network. A variety of other dedicated
23 iconographic representations are provided about display 139, each of which is
24 dedicated to communicate particular, predefined information to the page-receiving
25 communicant pertaining to information deposited at the paging network.

26

27 The device depicted in **Figures 19a, 19b, and 19c** allows only the receipt of
28 information from the paging network, and utilizes the dedicated icons to communicate
29 particular types of information to the page-receiving communicant. This allows the
30 small display 139 to be utilized for less-routine types of information

31

Figure 20 provides a block diagram view of portable communication device 201. As is shown, portable communication device 201 includes central processing unit 203, which preferably comprises a microprocessor. The microprocessor of central processing unit 203 interacts with the plurality of hardware and software components. Key pad input unit 231 communicates with central processing unit 203 to allow for the operator to depress particular keys on a keyboard thereby inputting data into portable communication device 201. Receiver unit 233 is utilized to receive radio frequency communication from the paging central office. Decoder unit 235 is utilized to decode radio frequency signals received from receiver unit 233. Decoder unit 235 communicates with central processing unit 203 to power-up central processing unit 203 when a page notification intended for portable communication device 201 is received at receiver unit 233. ID-ROM 237 is utilized to record in memory a particular numeric or alphanumeric identifying information which is provided to code each particular portable communication device in a paging network so that it is responsive to a particular radio frequency transmission. ID-ROM 237 records the particular identification code assigned to that particular communication device.

Central processing unit 203 communicates through display buffer 205, in a conventional manner, to place numeric data, alphanumeric data, and images, such as icons, on display unit 207. Light-emitting-diode 211 is provided to provide a flashing indication of the receipt of a page. LED driver 209 is positioned intermediate central processing unit 203 and LED 211, to allow central processing unit 203 to drive LED 211 in a variety of flashing patterns. Sound-signal generating unit 213 is coupled between central processing unit 203 and audio output device 215. Central processing unit 203 provides binary control signals to sound-signal generating unit 213 which result in the output of a particular tone, at a particular volume and a particular frequency. DTMF signal generating unit 217 is coupled between central processing unit 203 and audio output device 215. It is utilized, when desired, to generate dialing tones which may be communicated through audio output device 215 to the mouthpiece of a telephone to place a call utilizing the telephone network. Buffer 219 is coupled to central processing unit 203 and DTMF signal generating unit 217, and is

1 provided for queuing of DTMF generating signals. Voice processing unit 221 is
 2 coupled to central processing unit 203 to allow the analog-to-digital and digital-to-
 3 analog conversion of speech and other audio input or output.

4

5 Several housekeeping functional blocks are also provided in the view of Figure
 6 20. RAM 229 is provided as a memory cache. In the preferred embodiment of the
 7 present invention, a database including a plurality of fields which identify actual or
 8 potential communicants by name, address, and appropriate telephone and facsimile
 9 numbers, is resident within RAM 229. Character generator 225 communicates with
 10 central processing unit 203 to generate particular alphanumeric characters in
 11 response to commands from central processing unit 203. MAC/PC download memory
 12 227 operates a data exchange buffer to allow for the communication of data between
 13 central processing unit 203 and personal computer 239. Personal computer 239 may
 14 be utilized to store in memory the database which is intermittently downloaded through
 15 MAC/PC download memory 227 for storage in RAM 229. As is shown in Figure 20,
 16 personal computer 239 is coupled in a node mail network which allows for voice mail
 17 service (VMS), fax mail service (FMS), electronic mail service (EMS), paging system
 18 (PS), images, and connection to information services.

19

20 Figure 21 provides a flowchart representation of the technique in accordance
 21 with the present invention for communicating information between a page-originating
 22 communicant and a page-receiving communicant. The process starts at software
 23 block 251, wherein the page-originating communicant (user) utilizes the telephone
 24 network to access an automated data entry system. As discussed above, upon
 25 establishment of a voice circuit between the telephone unit utilized by the page-
 26 originating communicant and the paging center, the caller identification information, if
 27 any exists, is automatically transferred to the central office, where it is decoded and
 28 preferably utilized in accordance with software block 255 in a recorded menu
 29 exchange, wherein the information is verified and/or corrected and/or supplemented.

30 In software block 257, the page-originating communicant enters optional data.
 31 This optional data may be numeric data, alphanumeric data, digitized speech,

1 facsimile messages, or images. In accordance with software block 259, the paging
2 system identifies when the data entry has been completed, and confirms the data
3 entry in accordance with software block 261. In accordance with software block 265,
4 the paging network verifies the data, preferably by displaying it or otherwise making it
5 available to the page-originating communicant. In accordance with software block
6 263, the page-originating communicant hangs-up, and then, in accordance with
7 software block 267, the data, including the caller-identification information and any
8 optional or other data attached to the page information, is transmitted via radio
9 frequency communication link 269 to portable communication device 271.

20

11 The most common application of the present invention requires that the page-
12 originating communicant enter either numeric or alphanumeric data which is identified
13 with the caller-identification information. Upon receipt by portable communication
14 device 271, at least one of either the numeric caller-identification information, or the
15 alphabetic caller-identification information, or the optional data entered by the page-
16 originating communicant is compared to one or more data fields in a database which is
17 maintained within memory (preferably RAM 229 of Figure 20) of portable
18 communication device 271 (of Figure 21).

19

20 **Figure 22** depicts one example of such a database. As shown, there are five
21 data fields associated with each entry: a telephone number field, a fax number field, a
22 name field, an "other data" field (preferably utilized for addresses) and a notification
23 type and intensity field.

24

25 In one particular embodiment of the present invention, the numeric or
26 alphanumeric data entered by the page-requesting communicant is compared to an
27 appropriate data field. For example, if the page-originating communicant entered
28 numeric telephone data as part of the page request, this numeric telephone data is
29 compared to numeric data fields which are representative of telephone numbers in
30 order to determine if one or more matches exist. If a match exists, it is probable that
31 the page-requesting communicant is the entity identified in an associated data field.

1 For example, if a telephone number is entered in the page request which corresponds
2 to the first number in the database, it is highly likely that Mr. Hashimoto, the first name
3 in the database, is the page-originating communicant.

4

5 The caller-identification information is also compared with one or more data
6 fields in the database. In one specific embodiment, numeric telephone data from the
7 caller-identification information is compared to numeric fields which represent
8 telephone numbers, in order to determine if one or more matches exists. If no
9 matches exist, it is highly likely that Mr. Hashimoto is calling from a telephone which is
10 not ordinarily associated with him. The page-receiving communicant can then decide
11 to either return the call immediately, or defer it to a later time. In this event, the page-
12 receiving communicant knows that Mr. Hashimoto is the likely page-originating
13 communicant, and that he can be reached at this particular time at the number
14 identified in the caller-identification information. In this manner, a protocol can be
15 devised which automatically access one or more of: (1) numeric or alphabetic
16 characters that are located within the caller-identification signal; and/or (2) numeric or
17 alphanumeric characters entered by the page-originating communicant into one or
18 more data fields, in order to identify the likely identity of the page-originating
19 communicant, and to further to identify whether the likely page-originating
20 communicant is calling from a familiar telephone or an unfamiliar telephone.

21

22 In instances where the caller-identification information fails to produce a match,
23 the page-receiving communicant may be provided with a particular type of notification
24 to indicate that a person is contacting him or her, or attempting to contact him or her,
25 and such a person is not listed within the database at this time. This may prompt the
26 owner of the personal communication device to utilize a key pad or alternative means
27 to enter that entity upon return of the telephone call.

28

29 The notification type field is interesting, insofar as it is user configurable,
30 allowing the page-receiving communicant to identify a particular type, or subtype, of
31 paging notification with one or more particular likely communicants. For example, LED

1 displays from LED 201 (of Figure 20) may be utilized to identify work associates, while
2 audio tones emitted from audio output device 215 (of Figure 20) may be utilized to
3 indicate that friends or family are attempting to notify the page-receiving communicant.

4
5 Preferably, the user may establish intensity levels or sequence levels for
6 particular types of page alert notifications. For example, the notation "VI" indicates a
7 visual indication with a high intensity. In contrast, the notation "BL" may denote a
8 beep (that is, audio output) of a low intensity. Still, in further contrast, the notation "T"
9 may identify that, for this particular potential communicant, only textual messages
10 should be utilized to identify receipt of the page. In this hierarchical structure, the
11 entity which is assigned the "T" notification type and intensity, is a fairly low priority
12 potential communicant, while the communicant which has the "VI" notification type and
13 intensity indicator identified therewith is a relatively high priority communicant. In this
14 manner, the page-receiving communicant may be able to prioritize his or her return
15 phone call activities.

16
17 A variety of mechanisms by which the owner of the portable communication
18 device may enter data, revise data, or review data are depicted graphically in Figures
19 23, 24, 25, and 26.

20
21 Figure 23 depicts a portable communication device with a detachable input
22 interface, such as keyboard 301, which releasably connects through connector 303 to
23 paging receiver 307. Display 305 is also included in paging receiver 307. Paging
24 receiver 307 also includes pager operation switches 309. The owner of this paging
25 device may selectively releasably connect keyboard 301 to paging receiver 307, and
26 then depress one or more keys on keyboard 301 to enter data at a cursor location
27 which is presented within display 305. This device stands in sharp contrast with the
28 device of Figure 24, which includes keyboard 311 that is substantially permanently
29 coupled to paging receiver 313. Paging receiver 313 also includes display 315.
30 Paging receiver 313 preferably includes pager operation switches 317. The operator
31 may utilize keyboard 311 to enter or modify data within display 315. More particularly,

1 the operator may utilize keyboard 311 to add or modify data contained in the plurality
2 of fields of the database maintained within the memory of the portable communication
3 device.

4

5 Figure 25 provides yet another alternative embodiment contemplated under
6 the present invention. As is shown, paging receiver 321 is provided, and can be
7 selectively and releasably coupled to personal computer 327 via a serial hardwire line,
8 a parallel hardwire line, an infrared link, or a radio frequency link. Personal computer
9 327 may be utilized to create and maintain the database with a plurality of data fields,
10 including such fields as communicant's name, communicant's telephone number,
11 communicant's fax number, communicant's address, and a field containing an
12 operator-selectable notification attribute or type. Such data may be intermittently
13 transferred between personal computer 327 and paging receiver 321, and maintained
14 within a random access memory within paging receiver 321.

15

16 Paging receiver 321 includes display 323 and pager operation switches 319,
17 which allow for conventional paging functions. In this embodiment, the data contained
18 within the database of paging receiver 319 is periodically refreshed by the owner by
19 conducting memory dumps from personal computer 327 to paging receiver 321. Upon
20 receipt of a page notification, the caller identification information and/or optional data
21 input by the page-originating communicant is compared with one or more fields of the
22 database contained within the memory of paging receiver 321.

23

24 Figure 26 provides a view of yet another alternative embodiment contemplated
25 in the present invention. In this system, a very inexpensive paging unit, with limited
26 display capabilities, includes a memory for the receipt of the database with a plurality
27 of data fields including communicant's names, communicant's phone numbers,
28 communicant's fax numbers, communicant's addresses, and any user-selected
29 notification attribute identified to that particular communicant. The communication is
30 periodically dumped in a methodical fashion from personal computer 329 via wireless
31 infrared communicator 331 to portable paging receiver 333.

1
2 Figures 27 and 28 provide block diagram views of the software and hardware
3 components which facilitate the communication of the database between a computing
4 device, such as a personal computer, and the portable communication device. In
5 accordance with Figure 27, the personal computing device 401 includes operating
6 system 403, desktop application programs 405, data files 407, and intellect
7 communication software 409 which is resident in memory within the computing device,
8 and which is utilized in the transfer of information between computing device 401 and the
9 portable communication device 413, which includes download memory 419 which is
10 adapted to receive the database information. As is shown, the portable
11 communication device 413 may be connected via either hardware communication link
12 411, local infrared communication 415, or remote telephone input 417. In Figure 28,
13 a laptop architecture is displayed for laptop 421, which includes operating system 423,
14 personal information manager 425, data files 427, PCMCIA interface 429 and
15 communication software 431 which facilitates the transfer of information from the
16 memory of the laptop computing device 421 to the portable computing device 433.

17
18 Figure 29 depicts yet another technique for entering and modifying data which
19 is present within the database present within the memory of the portable
20 communication device. As is shown, the page-receiving communicant inputs data on
21 a physical form 435, which identifies communicant's names, communicant's telephone
22 numbers, communicant's fax numbers, communicant's addresses, and any associated
23 notification attribute for that particular communicant. Alternatively, information is
24 provided via an automated user input request system 439 which preferably utilizes
25 either a portable computing device, a stationary computing device, or a telephone to
26 input data which is to be communicated via radio common carrier 439 to paging
27 transmitter 441, which communicates via radio frequency communication link 443 to
28 paging receiver 445. The techniques for modifying the database are depicted in
29 flowchart form in Figure 30. The process starts at software block 451, and continues
30 at software blocks 452, 453, and 454, wherein data is either manually entered or
31 automatically entered and routed through software block 453. In accordance with

1 software block 455, data is processed at a radio common carrier, and transmitted to
 2 software block 457, where it is determined whether local programming is required, if
 3 so, the process continues at software block 459; if not, the process continues at
 4 software block 460. In either event, data is communicated to portable communication
 5 device 461 for creation, supplementation, or modification of the database contained in
 6 memory in portable communication device 461. In accordance with the flowchart of
 7 Figure 30, software block 465 requires that message code cards be printed, and
 8 delivered in accordance with software block 458 to a dealer or customer. The
 9 software steps associated with the utilization of these code cards is depicted in
 10 flowchart form in Figure 31. In accordance with software block 465, the page
 11 customer receives the printed message card along with the pager at the beginning of
 12 pager service. In accordance with software block 467, the page customer distributes
 13 the message cards to callers, and instructs them to fill the data fields in the cards. In
 14 the flow of Figure 31, the cards are distributed to callers A, B, and C in accordance
 15 with software blocks 469, 471, 473. The callers consult their message cards, and
 16 enter the code data, and transmit it through telephone office 477 to radio common
 17 carrier 479, which forwards it to paging transmitter 41, which establishes a radio
 18 frequency link with portable communication device 43.

19
 20 Figures 32 and 33 depict two types of standardized message code cards. The
 21 card of Figure 32, the call-receiving communicant's pager ID number is identified,
 22 along with the telephone number for the paging center. Then, a plurality of numeric or
 23 alphanumeric codes are provided in a field, with an area to the right for providing
 24 numeric or alphanumeric messages which correspond to the numeric or alphanumeric
 25 codes. For example, the numeric value "0" may corresponds to the answer "no", while
 26 the numeric value "1" may correspond to the answer "yes". In the view of Figure 33,
 27 an alternative standardized message code card is provided, which provides
 28 alphanumeric or numeric characters with alphabetic textual messages. For example,
 29 the numeric code "11" corresponds to the message "pick up the kids". Additionally,
 30 the potential communicant can enter phone data and fax data in fields which are
 31 dedicated for that purpose. This information is entered on a wide number of cards by

1 people who are likely to communicate with the paging subscriber. They are mailed in
2 or entered in by the potential communicants, to form a database which is periodically
3 communicated to the page receiving apparatus.

4

5 While the invention has been shown in only one of its forms, it is not thus
6 limited but is susceptible to various changes and modifications without departing from
7 the spirit thereof.

8